



A day (and a half)
in the bay

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Lucky Street

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Student translator of *Harry Potter* may face legal trouble

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Olympic torchbearer sets seniors aflame for English

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Canadian George Sapounidis, a torch bearer at the Athens Olympics, teaches English to city's seniors,

Sapounidis is in Beijing for two months lecturing and performing in Olympic-themed shows.

Photo by Du Yang

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Pre-Games
sports special

The 'Good Luck
Beijing' series

Just a year and four days from today, the Olympic flame will be burning in the city. To rehearse for that, Games organizers have, since July, been holding test-venue events they are calling "Good Luck Beijing" sports events.

Starting this week, *Beijing Today* will bring you full coverage of each "Good Luck Beijing" event and tell you more about preparation work for the Games going on in Beijing and her co-host cities.

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Big celebration for one-year countdown to the 2008 Games

By He Jianwei

On August 8, a gala celebration for the one-year countdown to the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games will be held at Tian'anmen Square, an official from the Beijing Organizing Committee for the Games of the XXIX Olympiad (BOCOG) said Wednesday.

International Olympic Committee (IOC) President Jacques Rogge will send invitations to more than 200 National Olympic Committees around the world during the celebration night.

"This event marks the first time

that such a significant ceremony has been held at the host city of the Olympic Summer Games, other than the IOC headquarters in Lausanne, Switzerland," Zhao Dongming, head of the cultural events department of BOCOG, said.

A crowd of nearly 10,000 spectators will join the gala along with Chinese leaders, IOC senior officials, chefs de missions and representatives of the NOCs, ambassadors and representatives of the Olympic sponsors.

Tian'anmen Square will not have any special traffic control for

this event, but there will be an area set aside for a stage in the center of the square. "We hope visitors can continue to enjoy the square as usual," Zhao said. Zhao said if it rains that night, the celebration would be moved indoors to the Great Hall of the People.

Aside from the gala celebration, 62 more events will be held across the country to celebrate the one-year countdown. Ten families selected to tour Beijing, five from China and five from around the world, through the "Olympic Families Tour Beijing" promotion will

embark on their nine-day Olympic tour starting August 6.

In addition, the theme song "We Are Ready," written and composed for the Olympic Games one-year countdown, will be released this Saturday.

Other activities in Beijing, such as the public fitness activities, forums, exhibitions, musical instrument competitions, will feature mass participation, while the co-host cities, Qingdao, Shanghai, Hong Kong, Tianjin and Qinhuangdao, will have their own organized countdown events.

BOCOG bans one firm over child labor

By Chu Meng

The Beijing Olympic organizers said Wednesday they terminated a licensing contract with a firm that employed children. The scandal broke after an investigation into accusations of four firms who supplied Olympic merchandises made using illegal labor.

The Beijing Olympic organizing committee (BOCOG) said they had terminated their contract with Lekit Stationery in southern China after investigators found the firm guilty of labor abuse. Lekit Stationery was one of the four firms accused in a June report of having exploited workers.

"The report shows that from January to February, 2007, Lekit Stationery Co Ltd (Dongguan) is believed to have used child labor by employing eight students during winter vacation for packaging work, which was not related to the Olympic products. Labor contracts were not signed with the students," BOCOG said.

"Labor contracts were never signed with several of their workers. BOCOG has decided to terminate Lekit Stationery Co's right to manufacture and sell Olympic-licensed products and has revoked its licensing contract with the company," BOCOG said.

These firms were supplying Olympic merchandise such as hats, bags and stationery. The report was issued by the Playfair 2008 campaign, which seeks to end exploitation of workers by sportswear and athletics goods firms.

BOCOG said the three other firms, Eagle Leather Products, also of Dongguan, and two firms in nearby Shenzhen, Yue Wing Cheong Light Products and Mainland Headwear Holdings Ltd, would retain their licenses because they were guilty of less severe abuses.

These three firms forced their employees to work overtime without extra payment, but did not utilize child labor. Authorities asked them to follow the country's labor laws and regulations.

BOCOG reiterated that the authorities are closely monitoring labor usage by Olympic licensed firms. It will punish any that violate the country's labor laws and regulations will be more strict in the future.

Countdown to Paralympics



An athlete shows his racing wheels for the 400-day countdown ceremony of the Beijing Paralympics. Photo by David Qian

Games Green ventures ready for test

By He Jianwei

Two Olympic venues have completed construction and inspection application to prepare for the Good Luck Beijing Sport Events held this month, an official from the Organizing Committee for "Good Luck Beijing" said Tuesday.

Located inside the Olympic Green, the facilities and faculty for the following two Olympic tests held at Olympic Green Hockey Field and Olympic Green Archery Field have prepared well, Yuan Zengsuo, executive president of Organizing Committee for "Good Luck Beijing," said.

Four men's and women's national teams will play at the

Good Luck Beijing 2007 International Hockey Tournament from August 8 to 13 at the Olympic Green Hockey Field not only to get a preview of the competition and facilities, but also to help the Beijing organizing committee test the venues and management.

"The hockey tournament will test the technology, the operation center and the communication center," Ding Bocheng, managing secretary for venues in Northern Olympic Green, said.

The Olympic Green Hockey Field, including two fields separately for preliminary competition and the rest competitions, can seat a crowd of 17,000 spectators. About

4,500 spectators are expected to watch each of the 16 matches during the Good Luck Games.

Good Luck Beijing 2007 International Archery Tournament will be held on the Olympic Green Archery Field to the north of the hockey field from August 20 to 26.

Shooters from 28 countries have registered for the event and it's the only Olympic test event meeting the Olympic standards and scale in Beijing this year.

"We will test the functional area through the archery event, including sports, security and media cooperation," Ding said. Both of the fields are temporary competition venues with five year service.

Gov releases first sunstroke alert

By Chu Meng

Chinese meteorologists and health experts warned people of possible heatstroke yesterday, as many parts of the country experience temperatures exceeding 35 degrees Celsius, the first such forecast this year.

The warning by the Central Meteorological Station and the Chinese Center for Disease Control and Prevention said people in Jiangsu, Anhui, Zhejiang, Jiangxi

and Hubei provinces might be vulnerable to heatstroke on Thursday, and suggested they avoid exposure to sunlight in the noon and early afternoon and take preventive measures.

The forecast said temperature in many southern regions and Xinjiang in the northwest will exceed 35 degrees Celsius on Thursday, with the peak of 40 degrees in some areas.

An emergency scheme to deal

with possible heatstroke was issued by the Health Ministry and the China Meteorological Bureau recently, asking local health departments to monitor and report heatstroke cases as public health incidents.

Local health authorities and disease control and prevention departments are required to release heat wave forecasts and heatstroke alerts to the public, according to the plan.

US\$100 mil draws developing countries to Expo

By Huang Daohen

A total of US\$100 million has been earmarked to encourage participation of developing countries in the coming Shanghai World Expo 2010, a senior official said Tuesday.

"To mark the first time a world fair will take place in a developing country, and to encourage other developing countries to participate in the exhibition, we have set aside an assistance fund of US\$100 million," Yang Xiong, vice-chairman of the Executive Committee of the Shanghai Expo, said at a press conference in Beijing.

Fund recipients will be selected according to the United Nations' statistics on developing and less-developed countries, Yang said.

Yang pointed out that there have been 114 countries on this list, and specific assistance would be divided into ten large or twenty small categories.

The fund will help participants cover expenses for exhibition, transportation and for setting up stalls.

He made it clear that assistance will not be distributed in cash, but through a signed contract to ensure the money is really used for the Shanghai exhibition.

Referring to preparations, Yang said that all the projects related to the Expo are going smoothly, but costs have turned out to be a little higher than were previously expected.

The construction of China Pavilion and theme pavilions will start later this year.

Other national pavilions of participating countries and international organizations will begin construction in 2009.

Organizers said the one-day admission price has been changed to 160 yuan instead of the previous US\$20 in 2001, but may vary with reservation times.

How to handle an extra 70 million visitors to Shanghai during the Expo presents a challenge for the organizers, Yang said, adding that one of the biggest challenges is how to accommodate such a large number of visitors especially in terms of transportation.

However, with the completion of some big projects, including hotels, airports, sea-transport, roads and sub-ways, conditions will improve significantly.

To date, a total of 158 countries, regions and international organizations have confirmed participation.

Private fund offers free *Nanking*

By Huang Daohen

A local resident has donated 20,000 yuan (US\$2,640) to allow more than 800 students to watch the US documentary *Nanking* – the old name for Nanjing – which chronicles the city's massacre in 1937, the capital's Huaxing International Cinema confirmed on Tuesday.

The free movie, running Wednesday through August 15, will be shown once per day at 8:15 am, an official from the cinema surnamed Liu said. High school and college students may watch

Nanking for free if they present their student IDs.

Tang Yun, the donor, owns a restaurant located in Qinghuayuan in Haidian district. "I felt that the massacre has largely been ignored by history. I hope more people will remember the truth," Tang said.

Tang got the idea from a media report last week, which said an anonymous person in Nanjing, Jiangsu Province, donated 10,000 yuan to help the public view the documentary. She was inspired and decided

to donate the funds with the agreement of her other business partners.

However, Tang refused to give her restaurant's name. "I'm worried that people might say I was just doing this as a promotion," she said, "I just feel it is a good thing to do. That's all."

The public applauded the private funding move. "It is precious for an individual to do this," Chen Yi, a college student who was among the first group to view the free screening, said on Wednesday. "We Chinese shall

never forget this part of history."

Nanking opened for general release in China on July 7, but to dismal box office sales. The low sales sparked controversy over whether the young generation is ignoring history.

The 90-minute movie is one of a raft of films about the Nanjing Massacre, commonly known as "The Rape of Nanking." The movie, co-directed by Oscar-winner Bill Guttentag and producer Dan Sturman, features interviews with Chinese war survivors and Japanese soldiers.

China Open to test new rule for more exciting matches

By Jiang Xubo

This year's China Open, which begins next month, will hold the first Asian trial for Sony Ericsson WTA Tour's new scoring rules to enhance the entertainment of women's doubles.

There will be no more striving to gain the advantage when the score progresses to 40-40 and any player, who score the next point will win the set of game. In addition, a "super tie-break" – first to ten – will be used, instead of a third set.

The new rules are part of the WTA's package to enhance the popularity and promotion of doubles, and to provide a more consistent presentation for fans. The rules received Tour approval late last month.

The changes mean more predictable match length and shorter matches, improved player health and scheduling of matches, and a doubles format that is identical to that previously adopted by the ATP, the Tours board stated on its official Website.

"More stars and rivalries, more excitement and more investment in the game – this is what the future holds for women's tennis," Larry Scott, the Tour CEO, said.

More attentions to doubles may bring hope for Chinese women tennis players, who tend to be strongest in the game. It holds true even for Grand Slam winners Zheng Jie and Yan Zi.

"The couple will surely participate in this year's US Open. It will mean a challenge for them to get used to the new rules," Gao Shenyang, vice chief of Chinese Tennis Association, said.

Chinese women players are expected to have it easier than their foreign counterparts in preparing for the new rules, as the China Open will be the first trial in Asia this September, Tennis Observer reported.

All trapped miners rescued in Henan pit crisis



All 69 of the miners trapped underground for 75 hours at a pit in Henan Province were successfully rescued Wednesday.

Xinhua Photo

Doubts plague grassroots charity organizer

By Annie Wei

With the recent flood of stories about netizens turning a profit by spinning tales online, a young man is trying to help by providing fundraising ideas for leukemia patients.

Ye Qiming, 31, graduated from Tianjin University and runs a convenience store near Jiangxi University of Finance & Economics in Nanchang. Thus far, he has tried to help more than 20 leukemia patients by organizing fund-raising events.

On May 10, Ye asked the family of Zhou Gao-hong, a leukemia patient, to light 995 red candles arranged in the Chinese characters for "We need help to save a life" on a beach. The candles caught the attention of locals who normally walk the beach after dinner. Many citizens were sympathetic to Zhou's plight, and his treatment became a hot topic.

But it was just part of Ye's charitable plans. After Ye revealed his role in these acts to the public, many doubted his motivations and suspected that his charitable acts may have been staged or an attempt to use patients to promote himself.

Ye denied these allegations. "When I hear or read stories about how a leukemia patient cannot receive proper treatment because he or she can't afford it, all I want to do is help them. I contact the patient's family through the Internet or by phone. I have never earned a cent by helping them."

Ye posted detailed charity plans on his blog and his fund raising bank account for patients, with reference to local Red-Cross offices or hospitals.

Wang Wangshui from the Red Cross of Yogan county, Jiangxi Province, confirmed that Ye's suggestions helped one of their patients to get the necessary donations. "Although it was less than 10,000 yuan, much less than the family needed, we still hope more people like Ye can offer us help to raise money," Wang said.

Some of Ye's charity plans fell flat on their face. He said he realized that what he was doing could only help a handful of people. "I am still looking for the right model to help even more," he said.

SWEDISH PRODUCTION COMPANY BRINGITON PARTNERS WITH CHINA ENTERTAINMENT TELEVISION FOR "BIG TIME SPENDER"

In a boon for Western advertisers looking to crack the potentially lucrative Chinese market, Swedish television company Bringiton has developed a television series with China Entertainment Television (CETV), a subsidiary of the TOM Group, one of the leading broadcasters in the nation, to enable Western brands to impact millions of consumers in an entertaining and distinctly Chinese way.

"Big Time Spender," a reality competition focused on shopping, is currently in pre-production, marking the first Western series to be co-developed with a major Chinese broadcaster.

"Big Time Spender" is an entertaining and exciting competition show. A total of 32 contestants for the show will be selected from all across China. Competitions will be held in 12 major cities and participants are expected to complete certain shopping tasks within given time limits. They will go through hits, semi-finals and finals to compete for the ultimate goal – the chance to live out the fantasy of spending one million dollars on a shopping spree in Hong Kong.

"What's significantly different about 'Big Time Spender' is that it is being developed with the Chinese audience in mind," explains George King, vice president of programming & production for CETV, a leading Mandarin general entertainment channel. China Entertainment Television (CETV), is a subsidiary of the TOM Group, a leading Chinese-language media group in Greater China, with diverse business interests in Online (Internet/Mobile), Outdoor Media, Publishing, Television and Entertainment across markets in Mainland China, Taiwan and Hong Kong.

"We were already very well aware of Bringiton through its show 'PlayUs', which generated a lot of press in China," explains Anthony Tse, president of CETV. "We were looking for an innovative Western-format idea, but something that would take the Chinese audience more into account. We are all very excited about the potential of 'Big Time Spender' and believe that we have the foundations of a fantastic relationship with Bringiton."

Brief news

50,000 illegal advertisers

The capital has halted communications services to 50,000 phone numbers for broadcasting illegal advertisements since last May, a move which brought a 26 percent drop in the number of advertisement complaints, a spokesman for the Beijing Municipal Law-enforcement Bureau of City Comprehensive Administration announced this week.

7,200 peacekeepers

The country has sent as many as 7,200 peacekeeping officials for 17 United Nations peacekeeping operations since 1990, according to an exhibition in the Military Museum to mark the People's Liberation Army's 80th birthday.

35 million tons of beer

People across the country consumed more than 35 million tons of beer last year, with per capita consumption of 27 liters, the China Alcoholic Drinks Industry Association reported this week.

(By Jiang Xubo)



A night view of Shenyang Olympic Sports Center.

Photos by Tian Yufeng

Shenyang, Qinhuangdao warm up for Beijing Olympics

By Mingxin

The football event at the upcoming Olympics will be held in four co-host cities as well as here in Beijing: Shenyang, Qinhuangdao, Tianjin and Shanghai. From July 1 to 11, Shenyang and Qinhuangdao co-hosted the 2007 International Women's Football Tournament. The tournament was the first "Good Luck Beijing" event of this year.

Four national teams took part: China, Mexico, Italy and Thailand. *Beijing Today* sent reporters to cover the event and investigate Olympic preparation work in the two cities.

Venues

Although a lot of people, including players, coaches, spectators and journalists think the organizers still need to do some work to make the Games better next year, particularly as regards overall organization systems, they gave high praise to the Olympic venues in the two cities.

There were many good things said about the newly-built Olympic football venue, the Shenyang Olympic Sports Center, for its pitch, lighting system, seating.

To ensure sufficient indoor light, the stadium's roof uses sunlight panels and glass, extending the turf's maintenance cycle. During the women's football tournament, deployment of the roof meant no interruptions due to rain. The stadium has covered an area of 150,000 square meters and has seating for 60,000 spectators.

The Qinhuangdao Olympic Sports Centre Stadium covers 168,000 square meters with a seating capacity of 33,572, more than 300 of which are reserved for disabled spectators.

According to Meng Hongtao, media officer of Chinese Women's Football Team, the team was satisfied with the fields. Meng thought



An official checks the view from the press box at Qinhuangdao Olympic Center.



Security was in place but there are a few teething troubles at Qinhuangdao Olympic Center.

the two stadiums were easily up to the Olympic standard.

Security

Security checks were strict at the two venues but still some unforgivable mistakes were made.

As part of security preparations for the Games, Shenyang police set up a department in overall charge of Olympic information. Some 3,000 policemen were on duty during matches in Shenyang, according to Bai Shaoyang, media manager of the Shenyang Olympic Sports Center.

Two hours before the match in Qinhuangdao on July 7, all present including staff from the organizing committee were requested to leave the stadium area. Only after a security check were they allowed back to their posts.

However, there were still some minor mistakes in Qinhuangdao. We did not apply for a pass for our car, but when my colleague and I drove through the security line, we were allowed to go on having shown only our press cards.

In another incident I was allowed through at the Media Entrance carrying my own bottled water. Worse, volunteers and security guards did not check properly for ID, so some people gained access to the pitch with just a photographer's card.

Small mistakes like these are to be expected during a trial run and

will doubtless be remedied before the real events. I certainly hope this will be the case.

Accommodation

During the Olympics, Shenyang and Qinhuangdao will host 12 men's and ten women's football teams. Over 1,000 players, team officials and journalists will stay in each city. Of course, there will also be a large number of football fans at the same time.

For Shenyang, accommodation doesn't seem to be a problem. The city has as many as ten five or four-star hotels and a couple of lower-rated hotels and hostels. These seem comfortable and well-run. Two five-star hotels, the Sheraton and Marriott are only ten minutes away from the stadium by car.

Things in Qinhuangdao are not so good. The city has a smaller number of star-rated hotels and service and management are barely up to international standard. However, its seaside location gives it an advantage.

Media service

Shenyang Olympic Sports Center has very good facilities for media with four working rooms for journalists. Over 200 journalists can be on duty at the same time. The "hardware" was fantastic, but the "software" of human services left a bit to be desired.

A conflict happened between

security staff members and journalists before the first match in Shenyang because it turned out there was no Media Entrance! All the journalists were asked to come in to the center through spectator's entrances. But this made bringing some larger equipment into the venue impossible.

In Qinhuangdao, the interpreter provided by the organizer at the press conference fell a long way short of an Olympic standard, failing to deal with even simple English during the press conference after the China-Italy match.

Transport and traffic

Qinhuangdao is only 280 kilometers from Beijing. Visitors can get there by train or road.

Three bus routes go to the Olympic center. Taxi prices are about half those in Beijing.

About 660 kilometers from Beijing, it takes four hours by train and one hour by air. Qinhuangdao is midway between the two. It takes about three hours by car from Qinhuangdao to Shenyang.

Although it has a population of seven million, Shenyang traffic flows far better than that in Beijing, even at peak times.

During the Games, the city will open 12 special lines with 500 new high-standard buses. It seems traffic will not be a problem for the city.

About 'Good Luck Beijing'

Just a year and four days from today, the Olympic flame will be burning in the city. To rehearse for that, Games organizers have since July been holding test-venue events they're calling "Good Luck Beijing" sports events.

In all 42 events have been scheduled between July 2007 and May 2008 in Beijing and co-host cities, with 26 of them planned for this year. Beijing will stage 23 such events with the rest held in or shared with Hong Kong, Qingdao, Shenyang and Qinhuangdao.

The large number of competitions have been arranged for August and September.

Starting this week, *Beijing Today* will bring you full coverage of every "Good Luck Beijing" event and tell you more about preparation work for the Games going on in Beijing and her co-host cities.

The cities

Shenyang

The average temperature in summer reaches 24 degrees, three to five degrees cooler than southern parts of China. Shenyang is not just the provincial capital of Liaoning, it is also the largest city of Northeast China and the major transport hub for the region. As a famous historical and cultural city, Shenyang is the birthplace of the Qing Dynasty.

Qinhuangdao

Lying within the temperate monsoon zone and adjacent to the Bohai Sea, Qinhuangdao enjoys the fresh and cool air and an agreeable climate. The city has long been considered an ideal domestic summer retreat. Well-known local sights include the Great Wall and seaside landscapes. Shanhai Pass, dubbed "the First Pass under Heaven", is the easternmost tip of the Great Wall.

Illegal bank loans into stock market

Beijing (Dow Jones) – China's banking regulator is closely watching for evidence of bank loans being illegally used to invest in the country's stock market, a banking regulatory official said Thursday.

Hao Aiqun, vice director of the China Banking Regulatory Commission's first division, made the comment to reporters on the sidelines of a briefing on the regulator's steps to prevent improper and illegal lending by banks.

In June, the CBRC punished 18 individuals and fined eight banks for poor lending oversight that allowed two Chinese state firms to illegally divert money from bank loans into property and stock investments.

30 polluters bared from bank loans

Beijing (AP) – China's environmental agency issued its first blacklist Monday of pollution violators, citing 30 companies that it said should be denied bank loans under a policy meant to enforce compliance with often-ignored regulations.

The State Environmental Protection Agency announced this month it would collaborate with the central bank and bank regulators to deny credit to companies that violate pollution standards.

The list posted Monday on SEPA's Web site includes two well-known food processors – Kedi Food Group Inc and Xiaoyangren Milk Products Co – as well as makers of paper, steel, pesticides and alcoholic beverages.

The agency did not say whether the companies would be allowed to appeal.

Beijing has been tightening enforcement of environmental and energy efficiency regulations.

China's economic boom has left major rivers and lakes badly polluted and its cities are among the world's smoggiest.

Man arrested after climbing China's tallest building

(Kyodo) – A 28-year-old unemployed man was arrested Wednesday after illegally climbing the tallest building in China, Xinhua News Agency reported.

The climber, named by police only by his surname as Zou, was detained in the early hours of Wednesday after scaling the 88-story Jinmao Tower in Shanghai.

Zou, from the southern province of Hunan, is likely to be detained by police for a week on charges of disrupting public order, the report said. A crowd had gathered to watch the stunt, causing a traffic jam.

A French climber, Alain Robert, who scaled the 420-meter high tower in a Spiderman costume in May, was held by police for five days and then ordered to leave the country.

Five people have been caught climbing illegally on the building since 2001, Xinhua said.



The last Taliban deadline passed on Wednesday. The group has already shot dead two men from a 23-member South Korean aid mission who were seized in southern Ghazni Province on July 19.

Negotiations to release remaining hostages is

reportedly underway between the Taliban and Korean representatives, but no progress has been made since Wednesday.

The Afghan government refuses to meet Taliban demands to release their imprisoned members.



Sim Sung-min

Fates hang in balance for the Koreans in Afghanistan

Latest progress

Confusion over reported fighting to free hostages

(christiantoday.com) – Confusion arose as contrasting reports emerged from Afghanistan in the mission to free Korean Christian hostages held by Taliban militants.

On Wednesday, reports said fighting had erupted in the area where the Korean hostages are being held, saying the development suggests a dangerous operation had begun to free them.

These reports have been denied by Afghan officials. Spokesmen for the US army and the South Korean Embassy also denied any knowledge of an assault on the hostage takers.

Taliban warns against military operations

(Guardian) – A purported Taliban spokesman said on Wednesday that the insurgents still want negotiations despite the expiration of the latest deadline.

Qari Yousuf Ahmadi said that the remaining 21 hostages are still alive for the time being, denying an earlier report that the militant group would kill four more captives as Kabul refused to accept its demands to free jailed guerrilla fighters.

The insurgents threatened that hostage lives would be in danger if the Afghan and multinational forces launch a military operation to rescue them.

Hostages separated in nine villages

(Korea Times) – The 21 South Korean hostages in Afghanistan are being held in small groups in nine villages of Ghazni Province and have been moved to different places frequently, Kim Man-bok, director of the National Intelligence Service, the country's spy agency said.

In a meeting with lawmakers of the National Assembly, Kim said the hostages were kidnapped by the "Abdullah Group" based in the Qarabagh district of the central province.



South Koreans attended a candlelight vigil in Seoul, demanding the safe return of their kidnapped compatriots in Afghanistan July 31.

CFP Photos

In South Korea

Parents ask US for help

(AP) – Family members of the Korean hostages in Afghanistan Wednesday appealed for help from the US to free them.

Twenty-seven of them met US deputy chief of mission William Stanton at the US Embassy in Seoul and submitted a written appeal urging the country to intervene for a peaceful end to the crisis.

"We have endured the pain day by day with belief that all nations would help the 23 hostages return safely. We still believe that, but our pain and anxiety after the deaths of Rev Bae Hyung-kyu and Shim Sung-min is unspeakable," they said in the appeal.

They pleaded for support from people around the world, saying volunteers for the underprivileged should be protected and it is not a matter of interest, religion or ideology but of life.

In the US

Any action should guarantee safety of captives

Washington (Yonhap) – The US said Wednesday it has no information on reports of hostage rescue mission under way in Afghanistan and stressed any resolution to the crisis should ensure safe release of the captives.

"We want to see that whatever is done ensures that there



Part of the teammates kidnapped.

Killing shocks family

(Korea Herald) – Family members were gripped with shock and sorrow upon viewing news broadcasts that the 29-year-old Shim Sung-min was killed by Taliban.

"Save his life. I can't live without him!" shouted Kim Mi-ok, Shim's mother at the Korean Foundation for World Aid building in Bundang.

Shim's death was all the more shocking for the families. About 20 family members have gathered, sharing sleepless nights since the kidnapping on July 19.

Shim's family has decided to donate his body to a hospital for medical research.

is no more loss of life or injuries to anyone," State Department spokesman Tom Casey told reporters in Washington.

US vows no concessions with Taliban

Washington (Korea Times) – The US government reaffirmed there would be no concessions to the terrorists.

"The policy as written over the

S. Korea bans travel to Afghanistan

(Korea Times) – The government Wednesday designated Afghanistan, Iraq and Somalia as "off-limits" countries under the revised passport law, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade said.

Under the revision, Koreans will face punishment if they enter those countries without government permission.

The law not only bans travel but also requires Koreans who are staying in those countries to leave as soon as possible.

The designation will legally take effect early next week for one year, according to ministry officials, and will then be reviewed.

The government initially banned Koreans from traveling to Iraq and Somalia but included Afghanistan.

Previously, entry to those destinations without permission was not punishable by law.

past 20 years or so is to not make concessions to terrorists and that remains our view," said US State Department deputy spokesman Tom Casey in Washington.

"The burden, just like in other hostage-taking instances, is on those who've done this and the Taliban to release them and to let them go," Casey said.

(By Huang Daohen)

Gov warns of alarmism amid new US toy scare

Beijing, August 2 (Reuters) – China fears alarm over product safety could stoke trade protectionism, a senior official told visiting US officials as a massive toy recall threatened to intensify consumer worry about the “made in China” brand.

In the latest scare, Mattel Inc. said it was recalling 1.5 million Fisher-Price toys globally because

their paint could contain too much lead.

The Chinese product quality watchdog told the US delegation that the country was tackling food and drug safety after a string of health scares have shaken consumer confidence.

“We won’t avoid problems, but we disapprove of ignoring the facts and of alarmism that

takes isolated things for the whole, and we oppose trade protection and discrimination,” a deputy chief of the General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine Wei Chuanzhong, said.

Wei said disagreements between countries over product quality and food safety should be settled “through dialogue, nego-

tiation, investigation and seeking out the facts.”

The US stepped up inspections of imports from China after a chemical additive in pet food caused the death of pets this spring.

Since then, the US claims poisonous ingredients have been found in Chinese exports of toys, toothpaste and fish.

Bourse to open for small companies

Shanghai, August 2 (AFP) – China is expected to establish a growth enterprise market for new, smaller companies next year in the southern city of Shenzhen.

A plan for setting up the long-anticipated market has been filed to the State Council, the China Securities Journal reported, citing Wang Shouren, Secretary General of the Shenzhen-based Venture Capital Association.

“The detailed rules for listing, trading and information disclosure will be announced after the approval of the plan,” Wang was quoted as saying.

More than 1,000 domestic firms eye a listing on the planned growth enterprise board, the newspaper said.

China has long mulled over a growth enterprise market similar to the US NASDAQ, where listing thresholds are much lower than on the main boards, to help start-ups, especially high-tech firms, with good growth prospects.

But the plan had been stalled, partially due to years of doldrums in China’s stock market until 2006 and the bursting of the Internet bubble in 2000.

Currently China has more than 1,400 firms listed on the main boards in the stock exchanges in Shanghai and Shenzhen.

Kia starts a second plant

Shanghai, August 2 (Reuters) – Kia Motors Corp has begun trial operations at a new 6.8 billion yuan (US\$900 million) plant in Hubei Province, the company said.

Kia’s China venture Dongfeng Yueda Kia, a three-way tie-up that includes China’s Dongfeng Motor Group Co Ltd and Jiangsu Yueda Investment Co, already operates a plant in Jiangsu Province making the Cerato, Optima and Rio models.

The new plant will more than triple the venture’s current annual capacity to 430,000 units in 2010, when it reaches its full capacity of 300,000 vehicles.

Many global automakers such as Toyota Motor Corp and PSA Peugeot Citroen are ramping up capacity in the world’s second-largest auto market, where 3.08 million cars were sold in the first half of the year, up 22.26 percent from a year earlier.



Amway stores on the way

Amway (China), direct sale network, began selling its products in approved area of China on August 1.

The company has completed its legal registration process. Due to crimes involving direct

sales, the format was banned in the early 1990s and is only now beginning to re-open.

The outlet in Yichang, Hubei Province, is already in operation.

CFP Photo

Two big automakers to unite

Beijing, August 2 (AP) – Shanghai Automotive Industries Corp and Nanjing Automobile Corp agreed to “comprehensive cooperation” on design, production and sales, Nanjing Auto said over the weekend.

The Beijing government has been encouraging such tie-ups in its fragmented auto industry, hoping Chinese producers will pool resources to create competitive models.

Nanjing Auto and SAIC, both government-owned, said earlier they were looking at cooperating with each other to make better use of limited resources.

China is the world’s second-largest and fastest-growing vehicle market but sales are dominated by General Motors Corp, Volkswagen AG and other foreign producers. The country has about 150 automakers, most small and financially weak.

Nanjing Auto is the local partner of Italy’s Fiat SpA. The company, based in Nanjing, struck out on its own last year, relaunching the MG sports car after buying the brand from its defunct British owner, MG Rover Group.

SAIC is the local partner of GM and Volkswagen is selling cars under its own Roewe brand based on the Rover 25 and 75, which SAIC bought from the British producer.

Citibank launches drive-through ATM

By Qiu Jiaoning

Citibank (China) Co Ltd on Wednesday officially opened its first drive-through ATM at the Upper East Side Central Plaza, Beijing. It is the first of its kind opened by a foreign bank in China so far.

“As part of our efforts to expand our distribution network in China, we recognize that the ATM is an important and efficient contact point for customer outreach,” Anand Selva, executive vice president of Citibank (China) Co Ltd, said.

Currently, Citibank has a total of 95 ATMs throughout China, including both in-branch and off-site. These ATMs can now provide card holders of internationally issued bankcards with various kinds of service, such as the money withdraw, transfer and payment transaction.

It is expected that, once regulations permit, local residents holding debit cards issued in China will be able to access and use Citibank’s ATM network throughout the country.

Citibank now has a total of



Drive-thru ATMs are more convenient.

Photo provided by Citibank

twenty consumer outlets across seven cities in China, providing both foreign currency and yuan services to Chinese customers.

China Mobile behind the bid for EMI

Beijing (The Inquirer) – Local media reports that China Mobile is behind the private equity firm Terra Firma’s attempts to acquire British music company EMI.

Terra Firma offered some 2.4 billion pounds for the outfit earlier in the year. The deal has yet to be accepted by EMI’s shareholders.

Some reports have it that almost 85 percent of the company has committed to Terra Firma. The outfit needs a 90 percent commitment for the deal to be done.

China buys shares of BG Group

Beijing, August 2 (Reuters) – China has bought a 0.46 percent stake in BG Group Plc, Britain’s third-largest gas producer, Bloomberg News reported.

The People’s Bank of China bought 15.5 million shares in the company between June 15 and July 13. PBOC made the purchase on behalf of China’s fledgling state investment corporation.

Foreign debt hits US\$331.6 billion

Beijing (Reuters) – China’s foreign debt rose US\$8.57 billion, or 2.65 percent, in the first quarter to US\$331.6 billion, the State Administration of Foreign Exchange said.

Short-term foreign debt rose US\$7.0 billion, or 3.8 percent, to US\$190.6 billion. Medium- and long-term foreign debt rose by US\$1.6 billion, or 1.13 percent, to US\$140.9 billion.

Economists look to the pace of accumulation of short-term debt as an indicator of inflows of capital speculating on an appreciation in the yuan.

GT Solar receives big order

New York, August 2 (bizjournal) – GT Solar Inc, a maker of photovoltaic production equipment for the solar energy industry, reports it has signed a US\$171 million contract with China’s Glory Silicon Energy to sell solar energy collecting facilities.

The new deal will help to equip the largest wafer factories in the world. Deliveries of the product, including GT Solar’s new DSS450 furnace for the production of multi-crystalline silicon ingots, are planned to be executed over the next two years.

GE Healthcare opens academy

Shanghai, August 2 (bizjournal) – GE Healthcare has opened the first magnetic resonance imaging training academy in Shanghai recently together with the Chinese Society of Radiology and the Chinese Society of Imaging Technology.

It opened the facilities in an effort to meet the increasing demand for training brought on by the rapid adoption of advanced medical imaging technology throughout China.

Student translator of Harry Potter may face legal trouble

By Han Manman

Three days after the latest and final book in the series, *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows*, officially went on worldwide sale on July 21, a full Chinese version translated by a 15-year-old student in Guangdong province helped by a student team appeared online, three months before the publication of the official translation is due from the book's Chinese publisher People's Publishing House.

The publishing house said this kind of private translation not only had a huge negative impact on the authentic Chinese version, due to hit the shelves on October 28, but also made life easy for pirates. The publishing house said they might consider legal steps to resolve the case.

The translation team's work has drawn tremendous attention online, with more than 10,000 downloads of their edition in one night alone.

Pirates were selling copies of the translation almost immediately after it appeared.

"The Chinese versions out now are absolute counterfeits and could not even be called pirate editions," Sun Shunlin at the Beijing-based publisher, said.

"Our two translators, sisters Ma Ainong and Ma Aixin, just began to read the seventh installment of *Harry Potter* on July 21. It will take about two months for them to finish their version," Sun said.



Kid fans posed at the releasing of *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows* in Beijing, July 21.

CFP Photo

Comment

We have the best intentions

"Whenever a new *Harry Potter* book comes out, there are lots of amateur translations. Not many *Harry Potter* fans want to wait for the official version. We did this spontaneously on a voluntary basis because we want Chinese *Harry Potter* fans to be able to read the book earlier. If anyone asks for money for this, he is not really a fan."

— Ziyang Xiami, runner of the "Harry Potter 7 Bar" in Baidu

Challenges Chinese copyright

Even though the Internet translation is intended for sharing purposes only, it has already breached the copyright of the publishing houses. Good intentions are no guarantee that pirates will not make use of the translations to print illegal versions. This would hurt the interests of both the author and the publishers.

— Yang Hong, deputy director, Guangzhou Copyright Association

We will sue them

The translation released online might be used by pirates and sold in book form, which will harm sales of the official edition. We have reported this to the relevant authorities, including the General Administration of Press and Publication.

— Sun Shunlin, People's Literature Publishing House

A civil case

I know South African copyright law says that if the pirated

work is not sold, then it is a civil case, not a criminal one.

Now imagine if that individual is unemployed.

— Samuel Murray, South Africa

Illegal for copyright reasons

What they did is illegal for copyright reasons. But they copied it and sent it to volunteers to translate it. Were they authorized to do this? I suspect not."

— Claudia Kryzstofski, Germany

Bank note collage cashes in on controversy

By Jiang Xubo

One Million Notes, a collage made of 10,000 100 yuan notes, on display at the TS1 Gallery in 798 Art District sparked a lively debate this week.

The collage, 1.8 meters long by 1.14 wide, frames in all 10,000 notes in 100 wads.

"It is heavy. It even fell off the wall when we were laying out the exhibition," a member of the gallery's staff, surnamed Jia, said.

"Currency is a special type of medium. But it works and means far more than a medium, and it inspires different emotions from different people. People attach so many meanings to money," Liang Kegang, the artist, said, "A sum of several thousand yuan would be an abstract idea for most people, let alone tens of millions of yuan, which common people rarely get a chance to set eyes on. That is why I created this piece. It shows something which may take an ordinary lifetime to accumulate, and sets it out on public display."

Liang claimed that all the notes



The One Million Notes displayed at 798 Art District

CFP Photo

were genuine, and he had borrowed them from friends to make his work. He also said that the item was intended for display but that he would sell it for 1.2 million yuan (US\$158,522) to 1.3 million yuan (US\$171,730) if a buyer came forward. He refused a request to check if all the notes were genuine, the

Morning Post reported.

The item was part of Message from Tsingtao, a joint exhibition for artists, from the city, which will run at the gallery through mid August.

This year's Beijing 798 Art Festival two months ago saw another of Liang's cash creations, 51 Million Notes. The notes were neatly piled

on a display counter, which was placed in an artificial pond. Liang said he was inspired by a theft from the Handan branch of the Agricultural Bank of China. Two members of staff allegedly stole a total of 51 million yuan (US\$6,737,120) from the bank about two weeks before the art festival.

Comment

It breaks the law

Artwork made from bank notes may contravene regulations on the use of currency. Publishing or painting images of the notes is also prohibited.

Though the artist's piece was for display and not for publication, it still exceeds the permitted uses of money.

— Zhao Xijun, professor, Renmin University of China

It is a shame

I thought it is a shame. After all, who would buy it? Why wouldn't someone who could afford to buy it not just make a similar pile of money at home?

— Wonder7

It's meaningful

The item does look crass at first sight. But the artist's explanation makes sense. Everybody has ideas about money, just like there are a thousand Hamlets in a thousand people's eyes. So the item is quite meaningful.

— happybaby

It is a piece of trash

These artists are just self-righteous. Art items should be something common people can enjoy and appreciate. Otherwise, it is just a piece of trash.

— an anonymous net user (Source: *Morning Post* and qq.com)

Beijing center of international romance



Xin Yu on the subway train.

Photos provided by Saito Takuya

By Jackie Zhang

After a month-long search, infatuated Saito Takuya finally tracked down his Mongolian dream girl in Beijing and the pair met for their first date in a city fast food restaurant.

Xin Yu, the girl of Saito's heart, is studying Chinese language at the China University of Political Science and Law. She returned to her native Mongolia for family reasons shortly after her long-anticipated date with her Japanese beau.

It was a Korean male classmate of Xin's who inspired Saito to seek her out. He called Saito one afternoon last month. "He asked me why I wanted to find this girl. I told him I'd fallen for her at first sight and wanted to

meet her again. Then, he told me the girl was his classmate and was Mongolian."

With the help of his Korean confidant, Saito arranged a first date with Xin the following day. "I'm really nervous. I've been trying to find her for a month. Now I have the chance to meet her I'm not sure I have the courage to go through with it or what I should say to her," an anxious Saito said.

The couple finally got together at a McDonald's near Xin's university. "She was as beautiful as I remembered. Her long black hair looked stunning. I was too nervous to speak. She just looked at me and smiled. I asked her whether we could be friends. She agreed. She speaks excellent Chi-

nese and has a lovely voice," bubbled an obviously smitten Saito.

"Although we haven't been in touch since she went back to Mongolia, I will definitely be dating her again when she comes back at the end of this month." Saito was happy to have found his girl. "I would be courting her whether she was Chinese or Mongolian."

"We are very surprised Saito was able to find her," a friend said. "We thought it would be impossible; there are so many people in Beijing. It is difficult to find someone. But we hope he can find his happiness."

Saito's parents also supported his love quest. "My parents asked me to try my best if I really like her."

Barcelona stars join one-year Olympic countdown fiesta

By Huang Daohen

Led by former world player of the year Ronaldinho, star striker Samuel Eto'o and new signing Thierry Henry, European champions Barcelona arrive in Beijing today on the first stop of an Asia tour which will also take the team to Japan and Hong Kong.

As part of the celebrations marking the one-year countdown to the 2008 Beijing Olympics, Barcelona will tour China from August 3 to 6, including playing a friendly match with Beijing Guo'an at Fengtai Sports Center this Sunday.

Organizers have installed an extra 6,000 seats to take capacity at Fengtai up to 35,000 to allow more fans a chance to see the stars in the flesh.

Chinese fans and reporters often moan that European teams have brought second-rate squads to Asia in recent years for summer friendly games, with marketing their club brand more important than playing a serious game.

Barcelona has guaranteed that its first team will be available for selection for the match, which means Samuel Eto'o, Thierry Henry and Ronaldinho are expected to take the field for at least seventy five minutes this Sunday, Liu Hongwei, one of the tour promoters, said.

"A contract has been made between the two sides and Barcelona will be held liable if their top players don't take part in the tour," Liu said.

In addition to the friendly match, Barcelona will also participate in a charity event to raise money for disabled children and commercial activities on behalf of sponsors. The team will be in training for the rest of the time.



Language learners not left behind

An American university student gives interactive English lessons to children in Henan province whose parents are away working in China's booming cities, part of a scheme organized by Tsinghua staff and students with help from US volunteers.

Xinhua Photo

Opera star in town for musical preparations



Elmar Ottenthal

By Gan Tian

Elmar Ottenthal, an internationally renowned opera director from Austria, arrived in Beijing last

Sunday for a final selection of dancers for a performance of Carmen – Passionate Love, which is due to open at the end of this year at Beijing Century Theater.

Ottenthal was invited to Beijing to direct the musical. "There are fewer than twenty really popular operas in the world. Opera has a long history in Europe, which means it can end up repeating itself. Musicals are different and you see a lot of creativity," Ottenthal said.

During the selection, Chinese choreographer Jin Xing gave an opinion of the candidates. Ottenthal also had his point of view, stressing that the person he was looking for should be passionate and powerful. He thought highly of professional musical actor Hou Yansong.

Carmen – Passionate Love is a musical with both Chinese and Western elements. "For me, it is the first time to put Chinese and Asian elements into my work," said Ottenthal. There are Chinese themed sets and even Chinese folk instruments used for the music. Ottenthal said he was gradually coming to understand China better, "Chinese people are more delicate and careful in dealing with their feelings, where Westerners are direct and strong."

Ottenthal said however that this musical belongs to the world, not only China. "Austrian string music is the best, so we'll use that. London's wind and percussion are special so we'll find those elements there. Mixing techniques are best in Munich so that will be another choice we use."

Photo provided by Yang Daoquan

Eternal bliss for one night only at Star Live

By He Jianwei

Regarded as rising stars of the UK post-rock scene yndi halda will take the stage at Star Live in Beijing tonight for the capital's leg of their Asian 2007 Tour.

yndi halda was formed by five school friends: James Vella on guitar, glockenspiel, lapsteel, piano, banjo, casiotone and vocals; Jack Lambert, guitar; Brendan Grieve, on bass and double bass; Daniel Neal on violin and Oliver Newton on drums and other percussion.

Vella, Lambert and Newton, who had played in several different bands together and been best friends since childhood, began with a desire to write songs that encapsulated the rolling Kent countryside of their home and the feelings it inspired in them.

Their new venture yndi halda performs numbers reminiscent of Sigur Ros, Papa M or Labradford; gentle, thoughtful and permeated indelibly by the wide-eyed sweetness of youth.

The band's unusual name is taken from the ancient Edda "Odin's Raven Magic" and translates as "enjoy eternal bliss," which is certainly one feeling present in the songs themselves.

As their song-writing abilities matured, a joyous euphoria lengthened the space between the delicate and quiet movements within songs.

Neal joined the band some months after those initial tentative steps and Grieve joined a few months later. The first strains of the songs that were to feature on their release "enjoy eternal bliss" could soon be heard emanating from the hill-top farmyard barn where the band rehearses and records.

After working on those songs between the ages of 17 and 19, yndi halda employed Resonant Records' Daniel Lovegrove to travel down to the barn to record them in the bright summer of 2005. Despite the band's worries that high-fidelity recording would reveal musical shortcomings, and Lovegrove fearing the dust-heavy air in the barn would damage his equipment, the results were the songs as the band had imagined them long before ever picking up instruments, songs that break hearts and mend hearts.

Info

Where: The Star Live, 50 meters north of Lama Temple Bridge, 3F No 79 Hepingli Xi jie, Dongcheng

When: August 3, 8pm
Cost: 60 yuan (students), 100 yuan (in door)

Tel: 6426 4436 ext 21

UNESCO updates literacy agenda

By Annie Wei

Illiteracy may be hard to imagine for newspaper readers, but current UNESCO figures suggest that 774 million adults, two thirds of whom are women, cannot read and write, and more than 72 million school-age children are not in school.

In support of literacy, a sub-regional conference organized by UNESCO took place in town on Tuesday and Wednesday to focus on the situation in East Asia, South-East Asia and the Pacific Islands.

The conference was attended by many first ladies, education ministers, decision-makers, rep-

resentatives of civil society and universities, education professionals and members of bilateral and multilateral organizations.

The two-day conference was a platform to engage in open and frank discussion about the challenges countries face in providing literacy for all, and to jointly develop recommendations on how to move the literacy agenda forward, Mark Richmond, director for the coordination of UN Priorities in Education, said.

"The goal of these conferences is to assist countries to address their literacy challenges and to make a real and mea-

asurable impact on the life of their populations, which should contribute to sustainable human development and poverty reduction," Richmond said.

Debate will take the form of round tables on literacy policies, strategies and programs. Specific regional issues will also be addressed, such as literacy in a multilingual context and literacy and rural development. In addition, the conference will present effective practices and show how the challenge of illiteracy can be met in different contexts using a variety of approaches.

Richmond said although the

literacy rate is high in these regions – around 91.7 percent – 70 percent of the illiterate population are women. As many as 81 million people in China are still illiterate.

Richmond said the challenges they were facing are not only related to basic literacy, but also to ensuring the link between literacy and development. "Literacy is based on a continuum of lifelong learning. Skills must be provided to youth and young adults so that they may gain access to income and employment opportunities, as well as enjoy good health," he said.

Forum to discuss growth, employment and decent work in Asia-Pacific

By Huang Daohen

An International Labor Organization (ILO) forum will be held August 13 to 15 at the China World Hotel as a platform for Asia-Pacific countries to discuss the region's efforts to produce more decent and productive jobs between now and 2015.

More than 160 delegates, including senior representatives of governments, workers and employers from some 20 Asian and Pacific countries, are expected to attend the forum,

according to an ILO release.

Titled "Asian Employment Forum: Growth, Employment and Decent Work," the forum will address key employment and workplace issues, including the role of economic growth in job creation and poverty reduction, improving productivity and competitiveness, creating efficient labor markets and managing issues in the informal sector.

Juan Somavia, the director-general of the ILO, will inaugurate the Forum, and Hua

Jianmin, secretary-general of the State Council and Tian Chengping, minister of Labour and Social Security, will also be key speakers.

Delegates will discuss growth, employment and decent work scenarios in the region up to 2015 and identify key issues for the ILO's Asian and Pacific member states as they strive to take forward the Asian Decent Work Decade and to meet the UN Millennium Development Goals.

Policy responses that can

strengthen the link between growth and jobs and the role of jobs in poverty reduction will be a key topic, together with practical responses to support these goals.

In addition, delegates will discuss a study on Asian and Pacific economic growth and its impact on the creation of jobs.

The Forum is the first major regional meeting of governments, workers and employers since the ILO's 14th Asian Regional Meeting in Busan, South Korea, held last August.

Embassy information

British embassy

Position: Visa Writer (Part-time)

Part time: 17.5 hours per week – Wednesday afternoon, Thursday and Friday

Start date: Monday 3rd September 7

Open only to: British Citizens with a "Z" Visa

Spouses of British or Foreign Diplomats with a "W" Visa

Deadline: 5pm, Friday, August 10

US embassy

Position: Political Specialist

Open to: All interested American citizens

Work hour: Full-time: 40 hours per week

Deadline: August 13

Position: Guard (Regional Security Office)

Open to: All interested candidates

Work hour: Full-time: 40 hours per week

Deadline: 5pm, August 10

Position: Laboratory Coordinator (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)

Open to: All Interested Candidates

Work hour: Full-time: 40 hours per week

Deadline: August 6, 2007

Position: Community Liaison Office Coordinator

Open to: US Citizen Eligible Family Members

Work hour: Full-time: 40 hours per week

Deadline: Open until filled

Position: Agricultural marketing specialist

Open to: All interested candidates

Work hour: Full-time: 40 hours per week

Deadline: Open until filled

(For more details, please visit the embassy's websites)

(By Han Manman)

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Cycling in the Bicycle Kingdom



Freewheeling fun on the old city wall at Pingyao.

Photo provided by Cycle China

By Elly Zhen

"We wanted to get to know a different culture, meet people, explore places, taste exotic food and as a bonus, look for physical challenges." The motivations David and Sue Young, a 50-something couple from New Zealand, describe for their trip to China could no doubt apply to many other visitors too.

Cycle China turned out to be offering just what the Youngs

were looking for, tailor-made trips and custom tours of destinations all over the country, often to places not found on standard travel agents' itineraries. They can take you to destinations off-limits for individual tourists or that call for specialist knowledge for the best travel experience.

The 31-year-old founder of Cycle China, Jeff Gao, imagines his typical customer as someone much like himself: "a person who is well

aware of how to travel healthily and comfortably, and have lots of fun doing it." In Beijing, participants make their way around the Forbidden City and other big tour attractions, but then saddle up and follow Cycle China's guides to *hutongs*, local markets, and the unrestored sections of the Great Wall. They might even go by motorcycle and sidecar. In Shanghai, aside from the usual jaunt along the Bund, China Cycle clients will pedal down

local *longtangs*, small residential alleyways, stopping for chats with locals along the way. Highlights in Xi'an include parking their bikes at the foot of Mt Huashan and climbing up to enjoy breathtaking cliff top views along the winding path to the summit.

Gao's average guide is "a young man in his twenties who is fit, suntanned, has a sense of humor and is laid-back. He'll be a traveler himself and enjoy talk-

ing to different people."

Cycle China also attracts customers from long-term foreign residents. Mancunian David Hilton comments, "Having been in China for two years, I've come across most of the scams that hapless tourists are subjected to at major tourist spots. Cycle China, however, was a breath of fresh air. No side trips to friends' shops, no hidden extras, just a relaxing, informative and fun bike ride around old Beijing."

Multinational metal mayhem

By Dianna Bai/ Zoe Li

Last Friday night, popular expat hangout Mao LIVEhouse thrashed to the furious sounds of Raging Mob, a heavy metal band that typifies the multinational music culture of modern Beijing.

"Raging Mob doesn't just mean a 'small group of angry people.' It symbolizes the international community in Beijing," said band founder Dave Hemmer, a corporate American English tutor by day and dedicated guitarist by night. Raging Mob has been one of the dozens of bands that make up Beijing's thriving heavy metal scene since September 2005.

When he's not busy working for companies such as Microsoft, Hemmer joins vocalist Robert Gonnella, guitarist Wang Meng, bass player Liu Ke, and a Chinese drum-



Raging Mob sings at the MIDI Music Festival at Haidian Park.

Photo provided by Raging Mob

mer they simply call "Soldier" at hotspots such as xiaojingchang, the neighborhood around the Mao bar which some compare to San Francisco's legendary Haight Street.

Liu serves as a government translator, Wang runs several

Xizhimen clothing stores, while Soldier got his name from his former service in the Chinese army. And Gonnella? He's a German businessman who runs his own Beijing soccer league. Their lifestyles are as different as

their countries of origin, but a common love for metal assembled them is not a Raging Mob. The band mixes up different styles of metal from three continents.

Raging Mob's slogan is a verse from one of their songs: "Born free to live my life / My own free will does rule / And I don't need your view." The lyrics represent the band's attitude towards life – a little bit contrary to the traditional Chinese values which place group needs before individual desires and obedience before self-actualization – but perhaps more reflective of the liberal Chinese youth who dress in the latest overseas fashions and dance the night away at clubs like Mao.

"We sing about war, pollution, and day-to-day problems that everyone faces," Hemmer said.

Athens torchbearer flames enthusiasm for Games

By Jiang Xubo

"Carrying the flame, joining hands together, dreaming the dream ..." George Sapounidis, a Canadian taught his Chinese students this song at a Dongsi community last Saturday.

George is a former torchbearer for the Athens Olympic Games. He taught the class for two hours, accompanying himself on guitar. About one hundred residents, mostly senior citizens aged between 60 and 80, attended the class, with the classroom full of laughter and music.

"They are wonderful. Though it is difficult for them to learn English, they work very hard, repeating what they learned,"

George said.

The senior's enthusiasm impressed George much more than his younger students had.

The elderly Beijingers are from a generation that witnessed modern Chinese history, experiencing ups and downs of every kind. They are very proud of China, of Beijing and of their Olympic Community.

The Beijing Olympic Games inspires them. They want to learn English as a part of getting themselves ready to welcome visitors from around the world who will come to Beijing for the Games. It will be the first important opportunity to present the capital and their community to the whole world, George said.

Fifty-year-old George, a torchbearer at the Athens Games, obviously shared their Olympic enthusiasm. He said he felt good to be with them. "It is wonderful to participate and to help them and improve their English," George said. "I feel needed here. And I can contribute my skills and do something valuable."

George has a very busy schedule for his two-month-stay in the capital, giving lectures and performing in Olympic-themed shows, as well as more English classes. Yet his enthusiasm for the Games won't end there. When asked whether he will be in Beijing for the Games next year, he gave a definite, "Of course!"



George teaches at an English class.
Photo by Du Yang

Events

MS Office Special Topics: Word, PowerPoint and Excel Workshop

This hands-on workshop aims to enable participants to enhance their productive using the MS office suite. A laptop is required. For more information or to register, contact emaba@rutgers.cn

Where: Regus Conference Center at the China Life Tower,
When: August 7
Cost: to be determined
Tel: 8526 2528 ext 18

China Formula Open Championships at Goldenport

One of the biggest races of the year at Beijing Goldenport Circuit will be held this weekend.

Where: Beijing Goldenport Motor Park,
When: August 4 to 5
Cost: 30 yuan, 100 yuan and 120 yuan
Tel: 5820 7820 ext 813

BBQ and TV program filming at Goose and Duck

As part of the ongoing count-down to the Beijing Olympics, CCTV and NHK will be filming a special program at the Goose and Duck International Club.

Where: First floor of Greenlake Place, northeast corner of Chaoyang Gongyuan Bridge, Chaoyang
When: 6pm-9:30pm, August 5, and the BBQ from 4pm
Tel: 5928 3045/6538 1691/139 0108 7774

(By He Jianwei)

Get your hands on some intangible culture heritage

By Li Meng/Annie Wei

Anyone who enjoys China's folk culture should not miss the exhibition is due to open at Ditan Park this Friday.

More than 80 different folk arts and crafts and other examples of "intangible cultural heritage," such as Beijing *kongzhu*, shadow puppetry, jade carving, kite-making and porcelain and items from the 21 Beijing *laozihao*, or historically famous stores, will be on display. Inevitably, there'll be Olympic franchised products too. The exhibition will be open 4:30pm to 9:30pm daily August 3 to 21.

The Beijing *laozihao* include the Fuyutai tea shop which will offer "tea sipping," and Shengxifu and Tongsheng, traditional hat and shoe makers. During daily show time, Zhangyiyuan, another prominent tea shop, will exhibit the exquisite process of making flower teas.

Exhibits will include art from Beijing, Tianjin, Hebei, Shanxi, Zhejiang and Qinghai. Traditional folk arts on show include paper cuts, cloisonne, Tianjin colored clay figurines, ivory carving, palace carpets, lamps and clay sculpture.

Tianjin colored clay figurines

This folk art traces its root to Zhang Mingshan in Qing Dynasty. Zhang would mold clay into vivid realistic figures of ordinary people, animals and characters from fairy tales.

The clay used is mud with a little sand, processed by weathering, filtering, evaporation and using cotton to polish a finish.

To achieve the best quality, clay workers avoid direct light and airy dry their creations. Once dry the clay figures are kiln-fired at temperatures of about 700 degrees



A New Zealand girl tries kongzhu under the help of a kongzhu performer at Ditan Park.

CFP Photo

centigrade before being polished and painted. The entire process takes about 30 days to complete.

Cloisonné

Also called "Blue of Jingtai," the art has a history stretching back over 500 years. "Jingtai" was the reign title of the seventh Ming Emperor. There are a great variety of products finished in this style, such as vases, jars, bowls, plates, boxes and those famous Ming ashtrays.

Ivory carving

Beijing has long been a major ivory carving center, famed for intricate carvings of female figures and also flowers and birds in exquisite designs.

Paper-cut

With just scissors and paper folk artists create all manner of lovely patterns and designs depicting flowers, animals and scenes from stories. They reflect the folk longing for a happy life or respect for tradition and popular heroes. Designs mark the seasons or celebrate marriage and birth. For more than 150 years Chinese people have displayed paper-cuts in windows, especially during holidays and festivals.

Zhangyiyuan tea shop

Many people want to explore China's rich teashop culture but are afraid of the numerous scams and fakers. The Ditan exhibition

offers visitors a chance to sample teas from the famous Zhaongyiyuan emporium. Founded in 1900, Zhangyiyuan is one of China's best-known tea brands. The shop's name refers to the start of a new year when everything is new and fresh. You can learn the intricacies of different ways to take your tea and the customs and rituals of tea drinking in different parts of China and beyond. Also on display are a variety of tea utensils and demonstrations of their use.

Where: Ditan Park Andimen
Wai Dajie Dongcheng
When: August 3-12
Tel: 6426 5925
Cost: 10 yuan

Olympic products sell online

By Han Manman

A web shop offering licensed Beijing Olympic Games merchandise opened for business on Monday. Olympic organizers predict a boom in demand for Olympic-themed memorabilia.

"The website allows consumers to buy Olympic souvenirs anywhere anytime," Yuan Bin, director of marketing development for the Beijing Organizing Committee for the 2008 Olympic Games (BOCOG), said. Yuan said sales were expected to burgeon now it is only a year to the Games in August 2008.

The website (2008eshop.cn) has exclusive authorization from BOCOG to sell licensed products of the Beijing Olympics. The range of items on offer runs from apparel to accessories, badges, artwork and toys.

More than half of all available licensed Olympic products can be purchased from the site. Some larger or more expensive items have not been included. So far, there are 820 authorized shops across China selling licensed products.

Red letter day for new express mail service



New service for local express

Photo by Cui Jun

By Gan Tian

Don't be surprised if you wake up to find a red mailbox in front of your house. The Beijing Post has introduced a new service called "Local Express" this Wednesday and the scarlet post

boxes are part of that.

The red mailboxes offer access to a new express delivery service. In the eight main districts of Beijing, if you post before 11am, your mail will reach its destination before 5pm. Mail

posted 11am to 5:30pm will arrive before 11:30am next day. Mail for addresses in suburban districts will arrive the following day.

To use the service you'll need to purchase special "local express" envelopes and forms from your post offices. The three-page forms have to be filled out with exact addresses and mobile phone numbers. Save one for yourself as a record, and stick the other two on the envelope. There is no weight limit as long as your stuff fits in the official envelope. An envelope and three-page form will cost six yuan from this Wednesday until October 31. The price will go up to eight yuan in November.

Local Express is cheaper and quicker than the EMS Service, which costs 12 yuan per item. More than 300 red mailboxes will be appearing on the city's streets this year, with the number set to rise to 800 next year.

ASK Beijing Today

Email your questions to: weiyang@ynet.com

Why do foreigners have to take the driving exam to get a Chinese driver's license if they already have a valid one from home?

Anyone who goes to another country, be it China, the US, or a European nation will usually not be allowed to drive until they pass the local driving exam. This is because traffic laws, road signs, and traffic conditions vary from country to country.

According to the Department of Transportation Management (call 6838 7800), you simply need the present right paperwork and take a written test to get a license to drive regular motor vehicles. You will need to take a separate test for a license to drive heavy vehicles such as trucks.

I am looking for pilates/yoga work out DVDs and also a yoga mat. Do you know where I can find these?

Any yoga studio and gym in town will sell you a yoga mat. For cheaper ones, you can try Guanyuan Wholesale market. The market is to on the west side of the Second Ring Road. Most cab drivers know it.

Work out DVDs can be found in many book stores, like Beijing Yinxian World (Jia No 6, Xuannei Dajie, Xicheng), but they will likely be in Chinese. For English language DVDs, try yogayard (yogayard.com) or chaterhouse (in the basement at the Place, Shop B107, No 9 Guanghua Lu, Chaoyang)

My friend got eyelash extensions done in Guangzhou and I think she looks great. I wonder where I could find the same service in Beijing, how much it would cost and how it works? Any side-effects?

Most beauty and hair salons offer eyelash extensions now. You can also find the same service at the fourth floor of Yashou Market. The price varies from 180 to 400 yuan. Friends who've had it done tell me it was painless, even quite relaxing and just involved sitting still for an hour or so while the beautician wove her magic. The falsies are glued on one by one to your upper lid. One treatment lasts about two to three months. We did hear some negatives, such as the glue causing skin allergies.

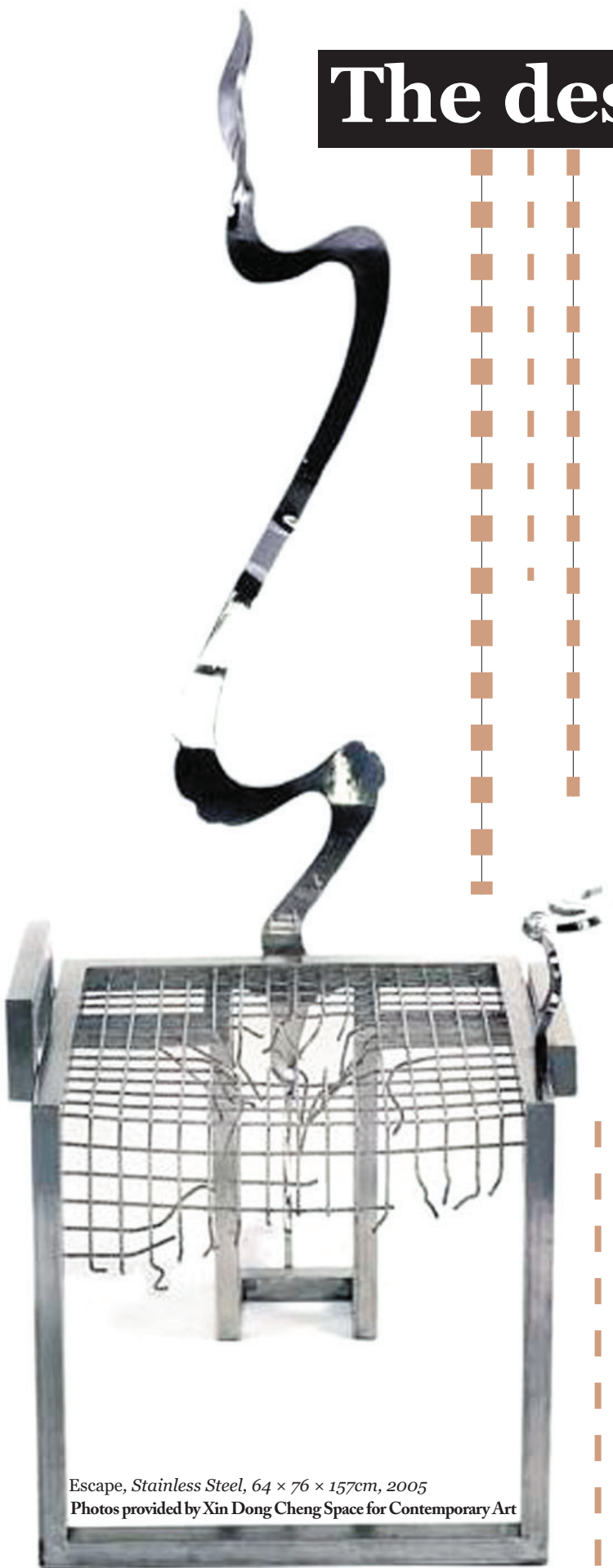
I was wondering if Beijing Today could point me to somewhere I can buy an electricity inverter in Beijing. I am really desperate.

We found a company called Beijing Innovation Sunlight Power Supply which sells the gear you need. Where: room 301, building 3, Jiutan 2000 Jia-yuan, No 56 Anli Lu, Chaoyang. Tel: 8480 2230. The Chinese name for an electricity inverter is *nibianqi*.

(By Dianna Bai/Wei Ying)

The city is s

The desperate world of Shi J

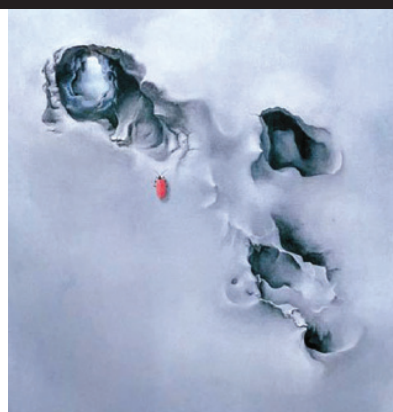


Escape, Stainless Steel, 64 × 76 × 157cm, 2005

Photos provided by Xin Dong Cheng Space for Contemporary Art

By Gan Tian

Is the world a desperate place? In Shi Jianmin's eyes, yes. People live aimlessly, society has no spirit and the city is so empty. In the Brewery International Art Garden near Liquor Factory, his oil paintings and sculptures present his sometimes bleak but always compelling vision.



Wounds - 003, Oil on Canvas, 160 × 160cm, 2007

A trick of space

Compared with 798 Factory Art District, Liquor Factory Art Garden appears much more isolated. Shi's exhibition is being held here at the Xin Dong Cheng Space for Contemporary Art Phase II. The blue-wall gallery is located in a nondescript corner, but once inside, you have entered Shi's world, which is anything but.

The space is carefully divided into several parts. In the main hall of the first floor, three big oil paintings, all making heavy use of grays, white and black, are hanging on a white wall. In each of them, there is a small patch of red color in the middle, creating a sharp visual impact. Standing on the ground are five pieces of shining stainless steel sculpture. Twisting and turning, they look like a variant style of Chinese characters in cursive calligraphy.

The second floor is divided into two spaces. Shi says the works there were done in his early years, 1991 and 1992. In the left-hand room, four stars on the second floor occupy a large space. If you take a closer look, they are revealed to be black, white, red and golden colored, each with an angel and a hook. Other oil paintings hang in the room on the right.

Prostitutes, centaurs and assorted monsters appear against mysterious backgrounds. They are shouting, screaming, grimacing and weeping. These elements prompt local viewers to think of Chinese Hell and Monsters, for example, Niu Tou Ma Mian, a Chinese monster with a cow's head and a horse's face, who takes the souls of the dead to the hell. Shi says that he made use of Western Impressionist techniques - visible brushstrokes, open composition, an emphasis on light in its changing qualities but ordinary subjects.

There is a back room behind the stairs. It's smaller, dark with twisting shining works of sculpture. Shaped like chairs, the sculptures shine more brightly still in the gloom. They are here to create a sharper contrast than you'd see if they were outside, said Shi, the exhibition is an extension of my painting life, and is a reflection of society.

Interest developed from Cultural Revolution

Shi and his wife live in his workshop in 798 Art District, making and selling his stainless steel sculpted chairs. The 45-year-old artist was born in Xi'an, Shanxi Province. Somewhat isolated from the outside world, the environment gave Shi a childhood close to nature: no school, no exams and few worries. Shi enjoyed this easy upbringing very much.

That was during the Cultural Revolution. Shi and his classmates were often taken to what was known as "working class club" as their sole source of education. They read many pamphlets and books there, which all had pictures of political issues such as bringing down the bourgeoisie class and praising Chairman Mao's thoughts. At this time, Shi fell in love with the classic Chinese pen-painting style used in the books and began to draw himself.

While his parents wanted him to be an engineer, he chose to go to Xi'an School of Fine Arts when he was eighteen years old. At that time, "Art was not taken seriously in China. The general view was that artists were poor and would never make a decent living. Among 30 classmates, only Shi and three others went on to a career in the arts. He came to the Central Academy of Fine Arts in Beijing in 1984 to study furniture design, and is the only one of his classmates to enjoy even modest fame.



Sacred Bird, Stainless Steel, 62

so empty

Shi Jianmin

Shi Jianmin's sculpture and painting

Where: Xin Dong Cheng Space for Contemporary Art Phase II, The Brewery International Art Garden, Chaoyang Liquor Factory, Beihuqu Lu, Anwai Beiyuan, Chaoyang

When: 9am-6:30pm, until September 30

Admission: Free

Tel: 5202 3868



Only Child, Oil on Canvas, 92 × 74cm, 1992

Working out of desperation

During his time as a student in Beijing, he came to the view that society couldn't function properly, or at least not as Shi felt it should. There was more and more traffic, a baby boom and other problems. "Looking under the surface for the reason why, one finds people are doing things aimlessly. Sometimes humanity needs a motivating spirit, but I can't find one in this city – people don't know what they want, what they should do, what is useful and meaningful, and what is beauty."

However, Shi still believes there is spirit in Chinese people's hearts. He combines it in the Chinese-character-shaped stainless steel sculpture – twisting, fighting, and reaching upwards. The piece *Screaming* is chair-shaped, with the back formed out of several broad strokes combining into a Chinese character that were lines interpenetrate and wind around each other. The strokes don't make an actual Chinese character as they are all going up.

The idea came from Taihushi Stone, a type of stone in a lake in Suzhou, Jiangsu, formed by the natural action of waves, famous for its twisting and strange shape. Taihushi Stones look like Chinese characters, animals, and insects, and they are a classic of Chinese form, Shi said, ancient Chinese people worked hard, and importantly I feel they would have no time for trifles like adulation and framing-up. That is a spirit to live by. Contemporary Chinese people should live the same way.

After a long time traveling, including a period when he lived in Shenzhen, Shi came back to Beijing in 1997, the year Hong Kong was handed back to China. During these years, more problems occurred. Shi was furious at the younger generation's casual attitudes. In the oil painting *The Only Child*, two human parents are holding a growing child, but the child has a donkey face. Shi said, "the oil painting was done when I realized China's one-child policy has its own problems: an abnormal society, the quality of the parents and the greed of the children."

Instead of feeling passionate about the city, he felt there is more and more false glamor. "Glamor is so ephemeral. Looking behind it, everyone lives material, not spiritual lives. Sometimes I feel the city is so empty," Shi said.

But there is still hope. A painting featuring a big piece of gray cloth in the background with a black hole in the middle of it. *Hole*, as it is called, shows modern people and society's aimlessness and weakness. A red beetle, about the size of a big toe is crawling near the hole, representing hopes and dreams. "I believe hope is always waiting in secret right by the center of despair," explained Shi.

Comments

Shi Jianmin's works are sharply incised wounds in the body of modern living. I like the visual shock they create, but I think there are more pleasant sides to this society. The grass is always greener on the other side. We need to take a balanced view.

– Mark Palmar,
reporter

I like Shi's oil painting very much. They show some of the ghost and spirit culture of ancient China but use modern techniques. You can see the artist is extremely skillful in balancing ancient and modern understandings of this society. He must be a nostalgic person.

– Liu Yueran, student



Untitled, Stainless Steel, 80 × 80 × 170cm, 2004

× 62 × 142cm, 2002

See through the heart's darkness

The Dogs of Babel

By He Jianwei

In Carolyn Parkhurst's debut novel, *The Dogs of Babel* (288pp, Back Bay Books, 105 yuan), she tries to break down the barriers of not only language, but speech itself.

After his wife Lexy Ransom dies after falling from a tree, linguistics professor Paul Iverson becomes obsessed with teaching their dog, a Rhodesian Ridgeback named Lorelei – the sole witness to the tragedy – to speak so he can find out the truth about Lexy's death.

Was it an accident, or did Lexy commit suicide?

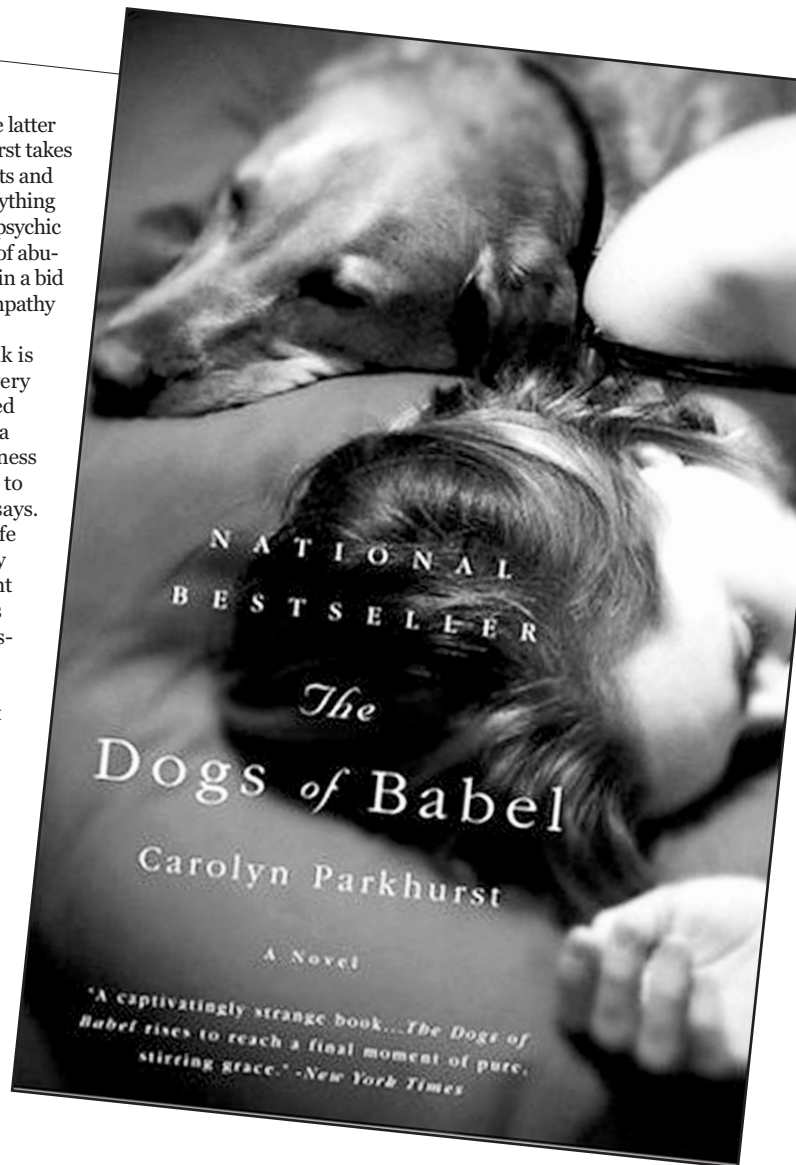
In his attempt to teach his dog English, the readers witness the sweetness and bitterness of love and marriage between Paul and Lexy. On their first date, they drove from Virginia to Disney World eating only appetizers and side dishes along the way; on the eve of her death, they quarreled over Paul's suggestions for Lexy's work.

The story focuses on two things: Paul's strange and passionate efforts to get Lorelei to communicate and his heartfelt memories of his and Lexy's whirl-

wind relationship. In the latter half of the book, Parkhurst takes a few too many odd twists and turns. She writes in everything from a Ms Cleo-like TV psychic to an underground sect of abusive canine linguists, all in a bid to make readers feel sympathy for the main character.

Iverson's heartbreak is quite palpable. "For every dark moment we shared between us, there was a moment of such brightness I almost could not bear to look at it head-on," he says. But his mask-maker wife Lexy is characterized by her spur-of-the-moment outbursts, spontaneous fits of anger and supposedly charming sense of whimsy.

Written with a quiet elegance and a profound knowledge of love's hidden places, *The Dogs of Babel* is a novel of astonishing and lasting power – a story of marriage, survival, and devotion that lies too deep for words.



About the Author

Carolyn Parkhurst holds a Bachelor of Art degree from Wesleyan University and a Master of Fine Art in creative writing from American University. She has published fiction in the North American Review, the Minnesota Review, Hawai'i Review and the Crescent Review. She lives in Washington, DC, with her husband and their son.

Chinese Chicken Soup



By Annie Wei

I need mottoes. Not just on how to make a great career or run a company, but mottoes about everyday life; to ease the pain and the doubt about being a sincere person with a strong belief about the better things in a simple life.

I guess it also the reason why many Chinese readers like Lian Yue's relationship Q&A column which appears in many national magazines. Lian has turned these columns into a book, *Wo Ai Wen Lian Yue* (I love asking Lian Yue, the Writers' Publishing House, 28 yuan).

Lian Yue, born in 1970 was a public prosecutor and then a journalist for the *Southern Weekend*, a leading national weekly. Now he is a freelancing columnist for many national newspapers and magazines. The book is a collection of Lian's articles from the beginning of 2003 to the end of 2005. Readers call it the "Chinese version of Chicken Soup for the Soul."

It's interesting to read these readers' questions, full of confusion and horror over love and relationships. Is love or a relationship really that com-

plicated? Lian Yue puts it simply, "The most basic element is that you love him and he loves you."

Lian has clear perspective and strong opinions about love and marriage. He does not write vague sentences, or useless comforting words. For people who feel disappointed about love, Lian said, "Love brings us endless confusion and urges us to seek the truth, because it's the most important element to life. Even if you get hurt, try to learn skills to survive and wait for the light in the dark."

There are many interesting chapters in this book. Lian teaches girls how to tell a man by the way he values money, and why they should stay away from married men. He also has very sharp opinions about topics that are popular among Chinese people aged 20 to 40, including why your other half should be from a similar background, commercial sex and why Chinese girls date foreign guys.

Lian Yue is good at finding the truth from others' stories and experience. Wisdom, fun, hilarious quotes and self-mockery permeate his writing.

Timezone 8 Recommendations

Timezone 8 Limited is a Hong Kong based publisher, distributor and retailer of books on contemporary art, architecture, photography and design.

Phantom Shanghai

By Greg Girard, 221pp, 375 yuan



If you've never visited Shanghai, I should probably point out that most of the city doesn't look the way it does in these photographs. If you know the city, you'll know that much of it still does. These are photographs of the Shanghai that will not survive the vision the city has for itself.

Glenn Murcutt

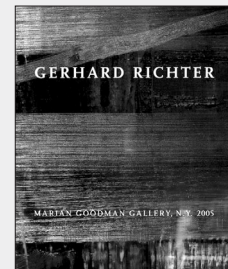
By Glenn Murcutt, 256pp, Images Publishing Dist A/C, 375 yuan



Recipient of the 2002 Pritzker Architectural Prize Murcutt is noted as Australia's chief exponent of sustainable and site-sensitive buildings. Working alone, as the title suggests, he created an original Australian architecture, characterized by the quality of the outback landscape.

Gerhard Richter: Paintings from 2003-2005

By Benjamin H D Buchloh, Dieter Schwarz, Gerhard Rich, 133pp, Verlag Der Buchhandlung Walther Konig, 328 yuan



Published on the occasion of the artist's recent one-man exhibition at New York's Marian Goodman Gallery, this up-to-the-minute volume presents new, large-scale works by Gerhard Richter, most of which have never before been published.

Timezone 8

Where: Timezone 8 Art Books, No 4 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang
Open: 10am-8pm
Tel: 8456 0336

(By He Jianwei)

Everything ecological

By Bessie Ng

They are advertised on supermarket banners and stickers, and they generally cost me: "ecological products." Ecological products are manufactured without polluting or otherwise harming the natural environment, and they are growing in popularity.

Recycled paper never loses face

They glow, they shimmer and they come in every color of the rainbow! Hidden in the dark corners of Nanluogu Xiang, these lanterns can add a touch of "Old Beijing" to your home-sweet-home.

As with many antiques in Somewhere Only We Know, the lights are hand crafted by locals using recycled paper and bamboo sticks. The shop-keeper explains that the patterns are printed using water-based paints and traditional printing methods.

Try emulating a *hutong* at night by hanging a row of paper lanterns along a corridor at home. With a bit of creativity and a pinch of effort, and you can fit a Beijing alley in your apartment!

Available: No 82, Nanluoguxiang, Dongcheng

1



Paper lantern: 98 yuan

2

Chinese Zodiac will protect environment

With stores at the two tourist shopping hot spots Nanluogu Xiang and Yandai Xiejie, Mu Craft accessories have made their mark with visiting foreigners.

Specializing in Chinese handicrafts, Mu Craft notebook-covers vary from Chinese Zodiac to Peking Opera figures to calligraphy paintings to papercut models – showcasing some of the finest arts and craft skills in the country.

Gao Xiang, product designer and also one of the founders of the business, said Mu Craft was originally a risky experiment by members of a rock band. Gao recalls seeing cow-

hide lanterns when traveling across China, and immediately decided to persuade his friends to start Mu Craft cow-hide products (to make and sell).

"Its worn-out yellowish paper texture makes the notebook look plain and simple and reminds people of China's old times. We also use hemp ropes made of wheat skin to bind notebook pages together. Local Beijingers grew up with these natural materials, and they are connected to many happy memories," Gao Xiang says.

Available: No 99, Nanluogu Xiang, Dongcheng



Mu Craft notebook-covers: 30-100 yuan

3

Gifted says recycle is something gifted

We've heard of recycled paper, recycled metals and recycled bottles. It's easy to recycle waste to make usable goods again: rip a plastic bottle in half, and voila, a pen holder. But to design an innovative, creative and helpful ecological product needs some real brainwork.

Down the same old alleyway of Nanluogu Xiang sits the champion eco-product shop of our review: "Grifted" Gift Shop.

As "Grifted" product designer PP explains, the basic aim of the shop is simple – to create new things that are interesting, fun and unique – and where possible, to be environmentally and socially proactive.

Available: No 32, Nanluogu Xiang, Dongcheng

4



Candy Wrapper Curtains: 600 yuan



Candy Wrapper Necklaces: 20 yuan

Recycled metals shout loud!

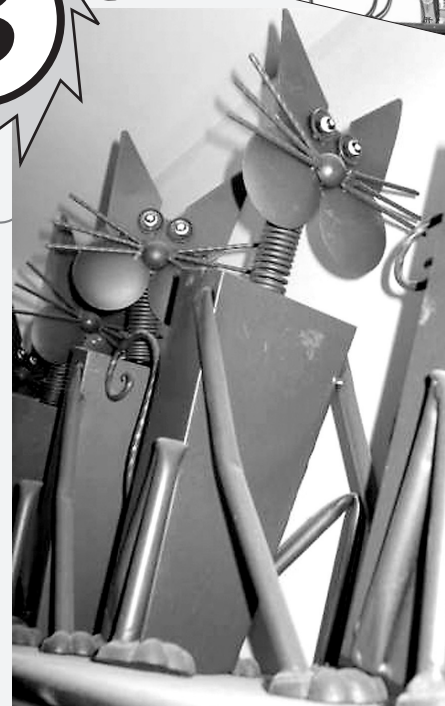
Metals rust over time, and are often the most troublesome resources to dispose, let alone recycle. But "Zakka" has a way.

Nestled in the deeper ends of old Beijing-style courtyards down Nanluogu Xiang, Zakka is run by a Japanese lady named Hangyo Rie and her photographer husband Liu Tong.

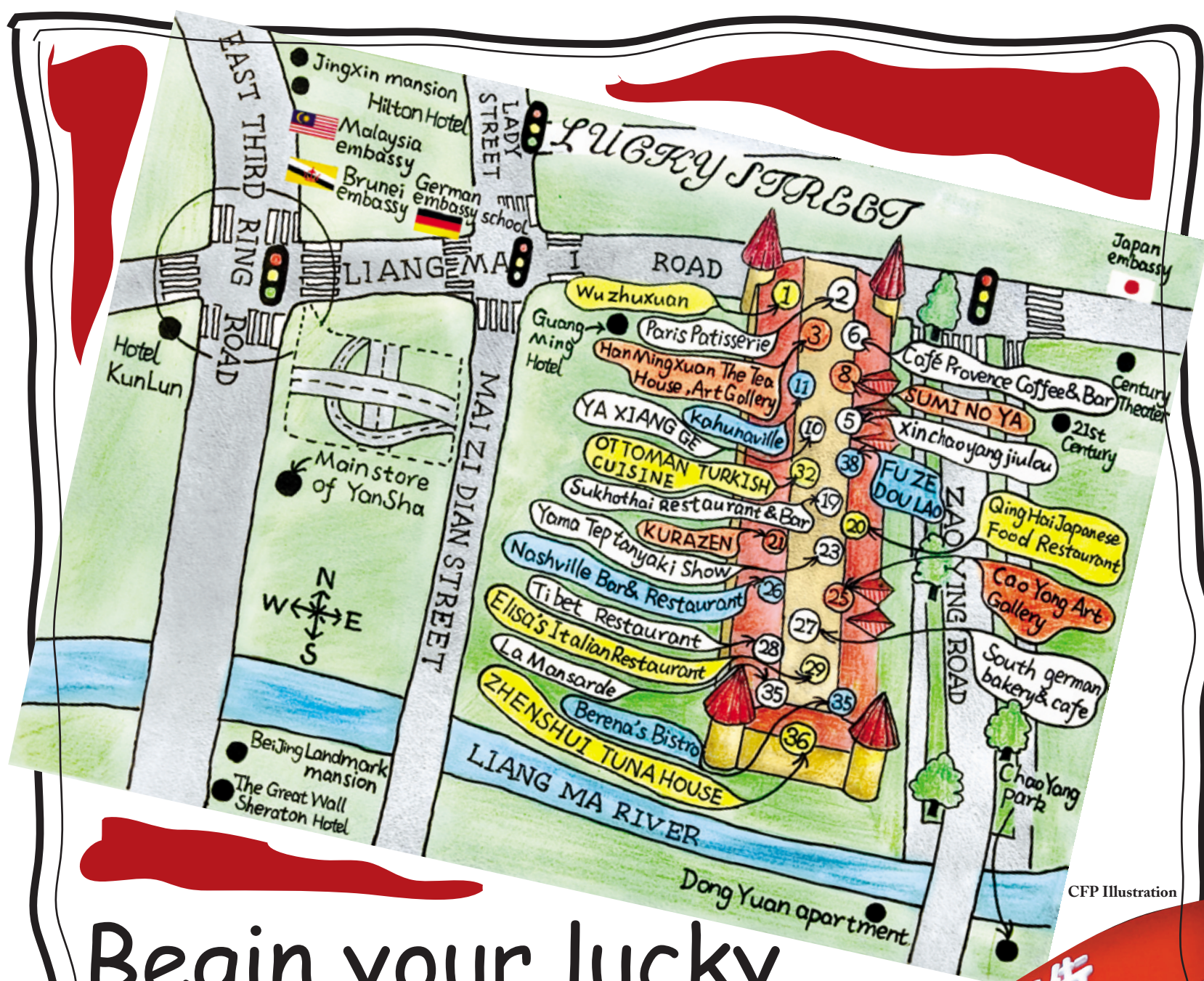
As the "star" ecological product at Zakka, their metallic cat and dog figurine designs stand as the first few state-of-art sculptures made of repainted and repolished old metals. Tracing Monet's footsteps through impressionism and using Picasso's sight in Cubism, old metals are cut, shaped and bent to create cute cartoon-like animal features.

"Zakka" means knick-knacks in Japanese. The store sells a variety of eco-friendly gift items imported from Japan and boasts a range of handmade jewelry.

Available: No 78, Nanluogu Xiang, Dongcheng



Metallic Cat and Dog Figurines: 158 yuan each



CFP Illustration

Begin your lucky summer stories down Lucky Street

By Chu Meng

Lucky Street, a new food street in the Lufthansa area, opened for business just before Christmas 2004 to offer posh residents an attractive dining alternative.

The street, situated on 29 Zaoying Lu next to the west wing of the Century Theatre, is lined with four-story, independent, European-style buildings. Each has three stories above ground. Twenty-two catering services are based on the street, offering Sichuan, Hong Kong, Macao, Japanese, Korean, Thai, German, French, Australian and tropical fare, as well as fusion cuisines. The 22 eateries include two galleries, which serve as cafes and teahouses.

Many of the restaurants are worth repeat visits. Beijing's top bar, Nashville, established its second outlet here. Enjoy all the delicious food of the old Nashville, but with a wider range of alcoholic beverages. Southern German Bakery and Bar is the most authentic in town – no surprise given the name. The bakery offers tasty homemade cakes, pastries, sandwiches and even hot dishes in the upstairs restaurant. La Mansarde French Cuisine boasts a respectable selection of country-style French fare. Try a classic pot au feu, cassoulet or beef filet, served with a hearty French wine and a selection of cocktails.

North of Lucky Street are new foreign embassies; the street itself aims to serve both Chinese and overseas guests in a small, English town environment. Although the signs and menus are written in Chinese, the waiters and waitresses speak English.

Photos by Tian Yufeng

Continued on page 17 ...

好运街
LUCKY STREET

LUCKY STREET
入口
Entrance





... continued from page 16

No.29 Elisa's Italian Restaurant

Pizza at scene

By Chu Meng

Elisa's Italian Restaurant serves traditional Italian food in a relaxed and casual setting. While Elisa's will deliver to your home, the magic at the restaurant really makes the place stand out.

"All our food is made fresh on site," Paolo Wang, the owner of the restaurant, said. Walking in, you will notice a clean, smart kitchen at the back, visible to diners. After you order, you can watch your food being made, which is definitely an enjoyable experience.

The gnocchi with spinach and walnuts in Gorgonzola and cream sauce (Gnocchi Al Gorgonzola Noci E Spinaci) sounds complicated, but it's well worth any potential confusion. This pasta dish costs 42 yuan, but is guaranteed to satisfy even the biggest appetite.

Elisa's Spinaci is like pizza with mozzarella, tomato sauce, spinach, black olives and Parmesan cheese. The ingredients combine to create an unusual flavor: a little bit salty, a bit sweet and sour. Perhaps it's just something about the restaurant that, when they put it all together, it just comes out delicious. Maybe someone back there in the kitchen is using magic, standing over bowls of spinach cheese saying, "Alacka alacka zoom! Bip-pidi boppidi boo!" Find out for yourself, head to Elisa's, put in an order and start watching the wood-fired pizza oven. It's where the magic happens.

Open: 11:30am-11pm

Tel: 5867 0291, 5867 0292

Cost: 50-100 yuan per person

No. 2 Paris Patisserie

Sweet-tooths Beware

By Chu Meng

There is something about a soft, creamy, fresh mousse that makes you want to close your eyes and say, "Mmmm."

Such is the response garnered by the breads and cakes at Paris Patisserie, located on the north entrance of Lucky Street. Each flavor – chocolate, vanilla bean, pistachio, raspberry, mango, rum raisin, coffee and lemon – is made from fresh ingredients and with no preservatives.

"You need to bring your passport, because when you come here, you are entering France," the food and beverage manager says as he explains how everything in the bakery is imported from France to Patisserie's factory in north Beijing, then delivered daily to the location.

The bakery is home to a range of scrumptious offerings: bread, cakes, pastries, chocolates, macaroons, petit fours, tarts and croissants. The real treasure lies in Gourmet Week's set menu. Two liters of premium, homemade ice cream cake for 99 yuan is an irresistible deal. Just one look at the pristine containers of bright raspberry, sunshine mango, velvety chocolate and speckled vanilla bean and you'll be sold.

The capital's hot and humid late-summer weather is the perfect time to polish your spoons for a plunge into this most refreshing treat. Enjoy the breads and cakes in the bakery, surrounded by homemade pastries with a scent of espresso in the air. Try to save some for home where you can experience your favorite flavors late into the night.

Open: 7am-11pm

Tel: 5867 0258

Cost: 20-30 yuan per person (including cafe and bread)



No. 26 Nashville Country memories

Nashville style

By Jackie Zhang

Nashville Bar & Restaurant is located in Lucky Street in Chaoyang District. The bar used to be in Sanlitun South Street but moved to its new premises in December, 2005, when the old place went under the wrecking ball along with the rest of the street.

The decoration in Nashville certainly gives you a sense of being in Tennessee out West. Walls of red brick, pictures of country music singers, wooden tables, chairs and bar counter; it all takes you back to your youthful love of country music.

The big selection of beers is one of the Nashville Bar's big selling points. "We provide around 50 kinds of beer imported from all over the world," Chen said.

Nashville Bar is the only bar in Beijing serving draft Boddingtons from Manchester, England and the UK ale is somewhat surprisingly the signature beer for this American-style bar. Boddingtons is known as the cream of Manchester thanks to the smooth head and silky way it slips down the throat. There's also Guinness imported from Ireland, deep black and bitter. Once you get used to it, the bitterness is pretty sweet. Beers are around 50 yuan for a bottle or a glass of draft.

Salad, steak and different snacks are served to nibble as you drink. Traditional chef's salad or tuna fish salad will set you back 40 yuan. Steaks cut T-bone or Rib-eye are 138 yuan a go.

Nashville Bar is famous for its cigars. In the humidors you'll find 50 to 60 different kinds. Cigar clubs meet regularly at the bar to enjoy a good smoke in good company. Perhaps stop by one night after work for a dram and smoke and try the atmosphere out for yourself.

Open: 11am-2am the next day

Tel: 5867 0298

Cost: 50 yuan per person

Continued on page 18 ...

... continued from
page 17

No. 32 Ottoman Turkish Cuisine

Loosen your belt a notch

By Chu Meng

The name of the game at Ottoman Turkish Cuisine is family-sized meat dishes that will leave your stomach round as a full moon by the time you are on your way out the door.

I went twice to this very good restaurant. The first time, we went as a group for a friend's birthday, the second time we just went to have lunch. The restaurant had perfect, quick service. The tasty food and nice atmosphere made both meals particularly pleasant.

The restaurant has its roots in both Turkish-Mediterranean and continental cuisine. It successfully combines the bold robust flavors of Turkey and a Mediterranean palette of summery vegetables to present a host of relaxed, unpretentious, not to mention, delicious food.

The Iskender (80 yuan), a plate of diced pork and beef with tomato sauce on a bed of Turkish bread, is more than enough for two

or three people, while the Lahacun (55 yuan), which looks like a kind of pizza to the unassuming eye, is simply delicious. There are also many options for salads, featuring extremely good Turkish cheese and a plethora of other meat dishes.

Favorites on the menu are also go to Shish Kebabs, Grilled Prawns in Lemon Garlic Sauce, Minced Beef Wrapped on a Flat Skewer and Rolled Fillet of Beef Stuffed with Button Mushroom and Spinach. They guarantee you will be savoring every last mouthful of these sensuous Turkish delights. While overall a bit pricey, the restaurant is well worth the trip and stuffed belly.

The Turkish dancers added to the feel of the restaurant, and many patrons joined in the dancing.

Open: 10am-11pm
Tel: 5867 0210
Cost: 50 yuan per person

No. 36 Zhenshui Tuna House

For your fish frenzy

By Chu Meng

Don't let the entrance of this restaurant make you miss the restaurant owner's attention to detail and the care he takes with his Japanese fish BBQ. The unconventional attitude is also reflected in the stylish space, high-ceilinged and sleek, with a long glass-and-metal entryway and a rock garden path leading to the bathrooms. Eyes will naturally come to rest on the upturned baskets filled with hot coals that persuade marinated portions of seafood to turn themselves into mouthwatering morsels.

This is sushi sacrilege, with a list of innovative rolls long and elaborate enough to drive serious raw fish traditionalists to *seppuku*. Nearly every item on the menu is among the best of its kind in the city, but

the rolls are what make this place truly special. With the single exception of the Beijing Roll, a roast duck and "special sauce" gimmick, you simply cannot go wrong. The 119 Roll, with bright red tuna inside and out topped with a divine spicy-sweet sauce, absolutely should not be missed.

But the specialty of the house is its wide selection of BBQ fish. Tuna is 28 yuan per serving, snapper is 30 yuan, as well as many other choices at about 15 yuan. The BBQ fish invite lets you savor delicate flavors of the sea prepared as only the Japanese know how. The sashimi will have to wait until next time.

Open: 11am-2pm; 5pm-11pm
Tel: 5867 0256/7
Cost: 200 yuan per person

No. 25 Cao Yong International Art Gallery

A journey of art and adventur- ous story

By He Jianwei

Cao Yong International Art Gallery, opened last August, is the only gallery on Lucky Street. All paintings sold in the gallery are prints priced at tens of thousands to bring the art to the Chinese people.

Cao's life is a legend. His seven-year experience in Tibet resulted in a remarkable series of paintings titled "The Split Layer of Earth: Mount Kailas." In this series, the artist addresses the conflicts between the physical and the spiritual. In the spring of 1989, Cao held his first one-man show at Beijing Artist Gallery.

His next journey was to Japan, where he faced a new challenge: how to survive as an artist in a free-market economy. He worked as a gravedigger for 18 days. After that, he thought he should paint again. Within a few years, Cao's murals adorned stylish commercial buildings, high-class department stores and even ceremonial sites in Tokyo and Kyoto.

In 1991, Cao founded his first company, C & G Wall-Painting Productions, and was soon recognized as the Japan's most honored muralist. Meanwhile, Cao Yong continued to work passionately on his Tibet paintings, and many of his finest works in that series were created during this period.

He emigrated to the US in 1994 where he continues to paint stunning and beautiful landscapes that have won international acclaim. In the wake of the September 11 terrorist attacks, Cao created a painting, "Freedom," to honor the people who died and reaffirm the global ideals of peace and freedom. This breathtaking image garnered enormous public interest in the US.

Cao's new work entitled China was revealed at the opening ceremony of Beijing International Art Exposition, July 12, expressing his love of China and its great culture with images of TerraCotta Warriors, the Great Wall, the Yellow River, Tiananmen and the statue of Buddha Losana.

Visitors can enjoy the oil paintings and watch a video about Cao's experiences, all for free.

Open: 10am-9pm
Tel: 5867 0229

Continued on page 19 ...



... continued from page 18

Restaurants

No. 1

Wuzhuxuan South Korean restaurant

Upmarket traditional and old-style South Korean cuisine, signature dishes modeled on classic palace cuisine.

Open: 10am-10pm

Tel: 5867 0285/30

Cost: 100-500 yuan per person

No. 5

Xinchaoyang Restaurant

Traditional Chinese Huaiyang cuisine with old-fashioned decor. House specialty is fried eel rolled with rice.

Open: 11am-11pm

Tel: 5867 0226

Cost: 200-500yuan per person

No. 8

Simi No Ya Japanese Restaurant

Japanese charcoal fire BBQ for various fine meats, beef gilet and traditional Japanese stews.

Open: 11:30am-2pm;

5:30pm-midnight

Tel: 5867 0205

Cost: 100-150 yuan per person

No. 10

Yaxiangge Chinese restaurant

A home-style Chinese fast-food restaurant, offering simple but healthy dishes and rice porridge. It has a homey and cozy decoration.

Open: 24 hours

Tel: 5867 0207

Cost: 30 yuan per person

No. 11

Kahunaville Fish Wing Hotpot

Authentic Hong Kong fish wing hotpot restaurant way up here in the northern capital. The house specialties are shrimp meatballs, cuttlefish meatballs, French goose liver and hand-cut beef slices.

Open: 11am-2am the next day

Tel: 5867 0267

Cost: 120 yuan per person

No. 19

Sukhothai Restaurant & Bar

From the decor to the food, this place is pure Thai splendor. One of the first Thai restaurants in Beijing, Sukhothai still serves tasty staples like pad Thai, pram pak and coconut milk-infused yellow, green and red curries that actually vary in flavor and heat. Perfect for a range of Thai flavors.

Open 10:30am-2:30pm;

5pm-10pm

Tel: 5867 0211

Cost: 200-250 yuan per person

No. 21

Kurazen Japanese Cuisine

With unique architecture

modeled after an authentic sushi hut, Kurazen features both robatayaki and teppanyaki grills. Perfect for a five star taste of Japan.

Open: 10am-2pm;

5:30pm-10:30pm

Tel: 5867 0281

Cost: 100-150 yuan per person

No. 22

Qing Hai Japanese Cuisine

Qing Hai offers authentic Japanese cuisine in a modern, dynamic environment. Highlights includes a sushi bar, teppayaki counters with live showmanship and the largest selection of sakes in Beijing. Above all, the atmosphere is friendly, with the chefs preparing dishes at your table.

Open: 11:30 am-2pm;

5:00pm-10pm

Tel: 5867 0218

Cost: 80 yuan per person

No. 23

Yeppanyaki Show Restaurant

Japanese iron plate BBQ, featuring iron plate Kobe beef. Kobe beef is some of the best meat in Japan. The cattle are fed organic grain, beer and sake. When it's cooked right, a filet mignon of Kobe beef is utterly transcendent. Juicy, buttery, with a melt-in-your-mouth quality that puts even prime rib to shame, Kobe beef is the very essence of luxury eating. You shouldn't even need to use a steak knife; it's that tender. There is a subtle sweetness to Kobe beef that makes even sirloin burgers perfect without ketchup.

Open: 11:30am-2:30pm;

5:30pm-10pm

Tel: 5867 0238,

5867 0236

Cost: 120-150 yuan per person

No. 28

Tibet Restaurant

This new Tibetan restaurant located high in the rafters of Lucky Street is a real delight for the senses; the whole place exudes a quaint homey feel with its bright traditional furniture and wall murals. The manager is a star singer in China, Hai Hong from Tibet.

Open: 9:30am-12:30pm

Tel: 5867 0226

5867 0228

Cost: 100 yuan per person

No. 29

Elisa's Italian Restaurant

Elisa's Italian Restaurant serves traditional Italian food in a relaxed and informal environment. While Elisa's will deliver to your home, the magic inside the restaurant is what makes this place stand out.

Open: 11:30am-11pm

Tel: 5867 0291,

5867 0292

Cost: 100 yuan per person

No. 32

Ottoman Turkish Cuisine

The restaurant serves up excellent authentic Turkish cuisine with added Turkish-Mediterranean and continental influences. It successfully combines the bold robust flavors of Turkey and a Mediterranean palette of summery vegetables to present a host of relaxed, unpretentious and above all delicious food.

Open: 10am-11pm

Tel: 5867 0210

Cost: 80 yuan per person

No. 35

La Mansarde French Cuisine

Lucky Streets new La Mansarde boasts a respectable selection of country-style French fare. Try a classic pot au feu, cassoulet or beef filet, with a hearty French wine and one of the wide selection of aperitifs to start. That's all before you get to the crepes for a simply divine dessert.

Open: 11:30am-2:30pm;

6:00pm-10:30pm

Tel: 5867 0255

Cost: 200 yuan per person

No. 35

Berena's Bistro

This veteran establishment has filled the stomachs of many an expat drawn by the user-friendly service and attractive, old-China décor of red lanterns and qipaos. The spice factor is definitely turned down a notch to cater to foreign tastes, but all the classics like Kungpao chicken and yuxiang eggplant are reliable and tasty. Perfect for Westerners seeking Sichuan fare.

Open: 11am-11pm

Tel: 5867 0266

Cost: 120 yuan per person

No. 36

Zhenshui Tuna House

Tuna bar with wide screen TV. It features Japanese seafood cuisine. You can smell tuna the second you step in.

Open: 11:30am-2pm;

5pm-11pm

Tel: 5867 0256/57

Cost: 200 yuan per person

No. 38

Fuzo Dulao Seafood Hotpot

Authentic Macao seafood hotpot, served in comfortable and elegant surroundings. Perfect for business dinners.

Open: 24 hours

Tel: 5867 0260

5867 0290

Cost: 80-100 yuan per person

Bakery

No. 2

Paris Patisserie

BEIJING TODAY

A neat and cute Western café and South Korean bakery. You can find South Korean breads and cakes, and coffee, pizza, sandwiches and Japanese noodles.

Open: 7am-11pm

Tel: 5867 0258

Cost: 20-30 yuan per person (including coffee and bread)

No. 6

Café Provance

BEIJING TODAY

Western live music café and bar. It has a European country-style feel. Live music every night adds to the feeling of pastoral romance.

Open: 7am-2am the next day

Tel: 5867 0206

Cost: 100 yuan per person

person

No. 27

Southern German Bakery and Café

No surprises here given the name, this place is indeed a South German-style bakery offering up a range of tasty homemade cakes, pastries, sandwiches and even hot dishes in the upstairs restaurant. German expats and fans of the bakery's heavier breads love this place. Their rye bread is the real deal. Perfect for imagining life on the Rhine.

Open: 9am-midnight

Te: 5867 0201

Cost: 50-100 yuan per person

Email:

michael@germanbakery.com.cn

Website:

germanbakery.com.cn

Bar

No. 26

Nashville Bar and Restaurant

BEIJING TODAY

A local favorite, Nashville has been serving up drinks since 1998 to thirsty Beijingers. It bills itself as a fun, Country and Western watering hole. It now has a bigger bar than at its old South Bar Street location,

ample seating, and a live band playing every night. Check out the second floor cigar club with cushy chairs and a plush leather couch to rest your tired bones in after a hard day.

Open: 11am-3am the next day

Tel: 5867 0298

Cost: 70 yuan per person

Gallery

No. 3

Hanmingxuan Teahouse and Art Gallery

Chinese traditional teahouse combined with a contemporary art gallery, decorated in a modern style.

Open: 10am-2am the next day

Tel: 5867 0208

Cost: at least 48 yuan per person

No. 25

Cao Yong Art Gallery

BEIJING TODAY

The gallery exhibits his works including the Golden Coast Editions reflecting sea communities, seascapes and ocean moods, which bring him the fame in the US.

Open: 1pm-10pm

Tel: 5867 0229

(By Chu Meng)

BEIJING TODAY refers to the locations where you can get Beijing Today.



A lake, a hill and a cave in Chenzhou

By He Jianwei

Chenzhou, a city located in southern Hunan Province, is known as the back garden of Guangdong Province, because more and more Guangdong residents are driving there to spend their weekends.

Most Chinese people know Chenzhou as the training base of the national women's volleyball team. Unlike other tourist destinations in Hunan, you can enjoy not only the lake and hill, but also a cave.

Dongjiang Lake

Dongjiang Lake is located 38 kilometers east of Chenzhou. The lake is close to the Beijing-Guangzhou railway and the No 107 national highway. The lake scenery is beautiful and dotted with islands and trees, giving it the nickname of the "Eastern Swiss" Lake.

It's a not-to-be-missed scenic spot, not because of the mist covering the lake, but because of the excitement of rafting into it.

One summer, my friends and I rented a minibus for 30 yuan from the city of Chenzhou at the crack of dawn. It was a cool summer

morning. As the minibus was driven along the Small Dongjiang Lake, a tributary of the Dongjiang Lake, we felt like we were in fairyland. When we looked down the valley from our minibus, the tributary was obscured by the mist.

The driver told us if we were lucky we could hear chanteys from the boatmen. Sadly, we never did get to hear this.

We arrived at the wharf, with a stretch of open water before us. As the sun rose, we felt a little bit hot. Nearby peddlers sold baked fish, oranges and tea.

A row of yachts were anchored along the right side of the wharf and some local boats on the right. After a great deal of horse-trading, we chartered a boat from a local fisherman for a reasonable price at 100 yuan for four hours.

In the center of Dongjiang Lake lies Doushuai Island, one of the biggest islands in the lake. Our first stop was this island, which is encircled by old trees.

The best part of a Dongjiang Lake tour is participation. Watch it and do it. Enjoy the fresh wind and the cool water by boat and make a Dongjiang

Drift. The fisherman told us that if we wanted to have a drift, then we should go to the upstream to Huangcao Town first.

Getting there: by bus from Chenzhou Bus Station

Cost: 24 yuan per person to Doushuai Island by yacht and 70 yuan per person to Huangcao Town by yacht; 210 yuan per person for drifting

Tel: 0735-335 3248



Suxian Hill

Suxian Hill, also known as the 18th blessed land of China, is located in Suxian district of Chenzhou. It remains well known since ancient times as a Taoist holy place where, according to legend, immortals once lived. The hill's legends and history are Chenzhou's fame.

The pepper trees scattered along our route had many seeds on their branches. After a 30 minute walk climbing the slope, we arrived at the top of the hill. A Taoist temple was surrounded in a mist of incense.

In spring of 1938 the patriotic General Zhang Xueliang was imprisoned in Suxian Temple where he wrote, "The sky is so low that the grand roc has difficult spreading its wings."

In Song Dynasty (960-1279), Qin Shaoyou, a famous poet, wrote "Chenzhou inn: to the tune of Tasha Xing" here. Su Dongpo, another celebrated poet of the same era wrote a postscript for Qin's poem and Mifu, a well known Song calligrapher wrote down the poem and postscript and engraved in a stone called "three wonders tablet." The "three wonders tablet" is in the middle of the hill and is visible on the walk down from the temple.

Getting there: by bus 15, 19, 20, 27, 28 and 29 at Suxianling station

Cost: 40 yuan per person

Tel: 0735-288 5350

Wanhua Grotto



If you climb Suxian Hill in the morning, then visit Wanhua Grotto in the afternoon.

Located 12 kilometers southwest of Chenzhou, Wanhua Grotto is regarded as Hunan's number one cave. It is a large-scale underground Karst cave with inter-connecting small cave systems, ground water, stalactites and stalagmites. The main cave stretches more than 2,000 meters, with a gully inside the cave and gully water running throughout.

In 1988, a Chinese-American Karst caving team came to Wanhua Rock Grottoes for a one-week exploration. Team members declared it one of the most beautiful caves in the world and of high scientific and exploration value.

If you visit the Wanhua Grotto in summer, you'd better wear a coat in the cave. It's much colder than outside.

Getting there: by bus 9 to Wanhua Station

Cost: 40 yuan and 15 yuan for student
Tel: 0735-215 5128

36 hours in the Bay Area

By Dianna Bai

Fifteen million tourists land on the shores of Northern California every year to take in the sights of the historic San Francisco Bay Area. The “Golden Mountain” – as the earliest Chinese immigrants called it – lies sprawled across a peninsula framed by emerald islands.

Aside from tourist staples such as the Golden Gate Bridge and Alcatraz, the peninsula is home to latent treasures – from the sleepy seaside marinas of Monterey to the glittering skyscrapers of Silicon Valley. Spend 36 hours sampling these four unique Bay Area locales the tour guides may not take you.



The Rodin Sculpture Garden at Stanford University

Begin your Bay Area experience early in the morning by taking a drive through the limestone gates of Stanford University. Behind the entrance runs a half-mile long road lined with lush Hawaiian palm trees and a view that some compare to “paradise.” One of the most sprawling and beautiful college campuses in the US, Stanford’s 3,240-hectare grounds stretch, magnificent yet idyllic, beneath rolling foothills in the heart of Silicon Valley.

Stroll into the Main Quad and you will find students biking to morning classes past the Memorial Church, as well as a stunning example of California mission style architecture. Visitors will undoubtedly notice the “Burghers of Calais” standing guard at the entrance to the Main Quad – only a preview of the Rodin Sculpture Garden inside, one of the largest collections of Rodin bronze castings in the world.

Pose for a photo as if running away from Rodin’s “Gates of Hell” or let your shadows emanate “The Three Shades.” Either way, the renowned French artist’s masterpieces stand in ominous contrast against Stanford’s sunny campus, and his haunting bronze visages will remain etched in your memory as you head out to the nearby town for lunch.

Getting there from Beijing: Fly from Peking International Airport to San Francisco International Airport, where you can rent a car or hop on an affordable shuttle. Drive south down the 101 – the highway made famous by “California,” the opening theme of the OC – and take the exit to Stanford. The Cantor Arts Center is located on Museum Way off of Palm Drive, Stanford’s main entrance.



Lombard Street in San Francisco

Take an afternoon trek up the “crookedest street in the world”: Lombard Street in San Francisco. It is a harrowing challenge but worth the climb. With barely 200 years since its establishment, the US – unlike Europe – is not known for age-old cities rich in history, the arts and architecture. San Francisco is the closest the US comes to Paris, London or Rome. Gazing down from the top of Lombard Street, visitors can get a breathtaking view of truly the most beautiful city in America.

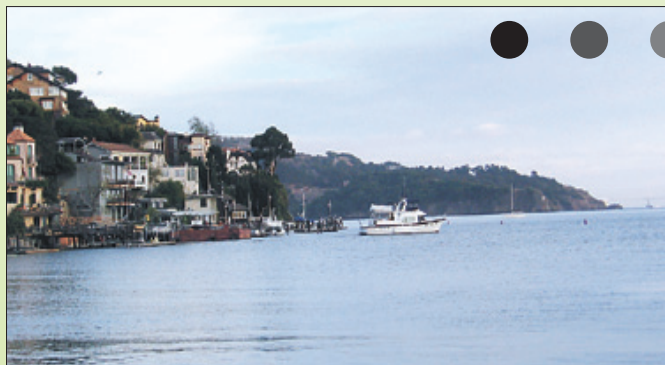
Getting there from Palo Alto: Walk to the Palo Alto Caltrain Station on University Avenue near El Camino Real. Take the Caltrain North to San Francisco, which takes about 40 minutes and costs US\$5. Once in SF, walk up 4th street and turn onto Powell at Market St. Take one of San Francisco’s famed cable cars up to Lombard Street.

Nola Bar and Restaurant in Palo Alto

Driving directly away from the main entrance of Stanford University, you will cross into the nearby city of Palo Alto, an upscale, thoroughbred Silicon Valley hub. Trendy restaurants, cafes and bars line Palo Alto’s commercial district, which also boasts the headquarters of Facebook.

Go for some Cajun cuisine at Nola, the New Orleans-style bar and restaurant downtown. Besides being home to a mean gumbo and plenty of crayfish dishes, Nola is colorfully adorned with a fantastic collection of Southern folk art. So throw on some Mardi Gras beads and enjoy the festivities!

Getting there from Stanford: Take Palm Drive which turns into University Avenue. Go a few blocks and take a right at Ramona Street. Nola’s address: 535 Ramona St.



The Island of Tiburon-Belvedere

After a long day of walking, relax your evening away in Tiburon – a quaint little residential island only a ferry ride away from Fisherman’s Wharf. Dine at Servino’s Italian restaurant and catch a movie at the old fashioned theater on Main Street, which sparkles with lights at dusk. Stroll along the quiet streets filled with delightful boutiques for locals and tourists including a Candy Store serving up quirky confections.

In the morning, watch the sun rise over the Golden Gate Bridge and Angel Island, all visible in the distance from Tiburon or the adja-

cent town of Belvedere. For a late brunch, stop at Sam’s Anchor Cafe, the waterfront restaurant, and order your heart’s desire of omelets, oatmeal and hot chocolate from Spanish-speaking waiters.

Finally, to end your romantic 36 hours in the Bay Area, take an hour long walk or bike ride around the island – past the marinas filled with white boats, glistening in the sunlight.

Getting there: From Lombard Street, it is an easy walk to Pier 39, where you can hop on a Blue & Gold ferry to Tiburon.



CHINA OPEN

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Time: 2007.9.8-9.23
Official Inquiries: 8610-58206667
www.chinaopen.com.cn

2007.9.8-9.23 Decisive Battle
Beyond The Forbidden City



Chinglish story

This column focuses on Chinglish mistakes in our daily life. If you have any experiences to share, send them to Gan Tian at gantian@ynet.com.

Romantic television drama

By Huang Daohen

Remember the deformed man in the restroom (Issue 312)? Working for an English newspaper in China may provide numerous occasions that set you laughing out loud. This week the word I want to share with you is "CCTV."

The CCTV story was suggested by one of my colleagues as we were looking over the debate about increased use of surveillance in public spaces in Beijing. As the story goes, a local working for CCTV (China Central Television) met two Western ladies in a club one night in Sanlitun.

The young Chinese, it seems, was rather taken with one of the ladies, and really wanted to impress her. So his opening line was, "Hi, I'm from CCTV, really nice to meet you here." He was surprised when the confused lady tried to explain that she had done nothing wrong and just wanted to enjoy her drink. What an embarrassing romantic gambit!

CCTV in English is most commonly used to refer to closed-circuit television, video cameras transmitting a picture to a specific, limited set of monitors. CCTV is used for surveillance in places which need security, such as banks, casinos and airports or military installations.

What's more, with the increasing use of CCTV in public places, the term has caused a debate about balancing public safety with a concern for privacy. No wonder the lady was confused, she probably assumed our hapless beau was a security guard.

In China when you mention CCTV everyone immediately thinks of China Central Television, the main broadcast television network. Organizationally, it is a sub-ministry of the government within the State Administration of Radio, Television, and Film. As such, working for the CCTV is indeed something a man might boast about.

Learning a foreign language is no longer as hard as it used to be thanks to the spread of communications technology such as the Internet. But the story warns us that a proper understanding of different cultural contexts is still needed.

Blacklist

Beijing Today has come up with Blacklist, a new column of words or phrases commonly mis-used by Chinese speakers. If you're planning to be an English teacher, reporter or employee of a multinational company, then this page is your new best friend. Watch it for each week.

By Shida Zhu

1. Spokesman of the Foreign Ministry

Please remember that a spokesman is a person who speaks on behalf of someone else. So the spokesman representing the Foreign Ministry is called a spokesman for the Foreign Ministry. "Of" is not used, implying a possessive relation. Similarly, you will have to say an ambassador to a country, for instance, the Russian ambassador to China. However, when you speak of the embassy, you will have to

say the embassy in a nation's capital, for instance, the Russian Embassy in Beijing.

2. All of they try to express national pride.

Chinese users of English are liable to commit this error. It appears as if nothing is wrong to an unpracticed reader. Please note that after "of," you will have to use the objective case of the word "they," that is, you will have to say "all of them."

3. If one person trains by themselves they aren't going to improve their skills.

The problem here involves consistent use of personal pronouns. You should say either "If

one trains by himself he is not going to improve his skills" or "If they train by themselves they are not going to improve their skills."

4. The more people practice together, we can improve our technique.

A similar mistake to the one mentioned above and common amongst beginning learners. The whole idea is rendered in a purely Chinese way. First of all, you have to think of the relationship between "practice" and "improve"; it is one of cause and effect. So you need to say "If people practice more together, they can improve their technique better." As you use "people," then, you will have to say "they," the third person plural. Consist use of personal pronouns again!

5. They are living in a world we don't know much about it.

Can you spot the mistake? You might think it is a perfect sentence. Almost, but it should read "They are living in world we don't know much about." See the error? As the object of "We don't know much about" the linking word "which" has been left out in the sentence. So, when you say "They are living in a world we don't know much about it" you are unnecessarily embellishing the sentence.

6. The band is comprised of singers, drummers and guitarists.

You have a number of choices in expressing the idea of composition of an organization. When you use the verb "comprise," remember that it is a transitive verb. So, you will say "The band comprises singers, drummers and guitarists." When you choose the verb "compose," the intransitive verb, then, you will have to say "The band is composed of singers, drummers and guitarists."

7. Parks are the most common places for Chinese go on dates.

This is Chinglish. People can understand you though it is grammatically not perfect. What's wrong with it? You have overlooked a necessary grammatical link "to." It will be better if you write "Parks are the most common places for Chinese to go on dates."



Photo by Derrick Sobodash

Chinglish on the way

This column aims to identify Chinglish in public areas. If you see any Chinglish signs, please take a picture and send it to gantian@ynet.com together with your name and address.

Can't I on danger?

By Derrick Sobodash

The way the human eye works is a truly fascinating thing. Have you noticed how as you flipped through the last 20 pages, your eye focused on the top left each time, then glided to the bottom right?

Ah, the magic of vision.

Unfortunately, some examples of Chinglish are targeted specifically at hurling a monkey wrench into this fine visual machine. In languages written in Latin characters - like the ones you are reading - readers in part recognize words by the combination of vertical and empty spaces. Were you to draw a box shaped like the word "bed," most people would be able to tell it says bed.

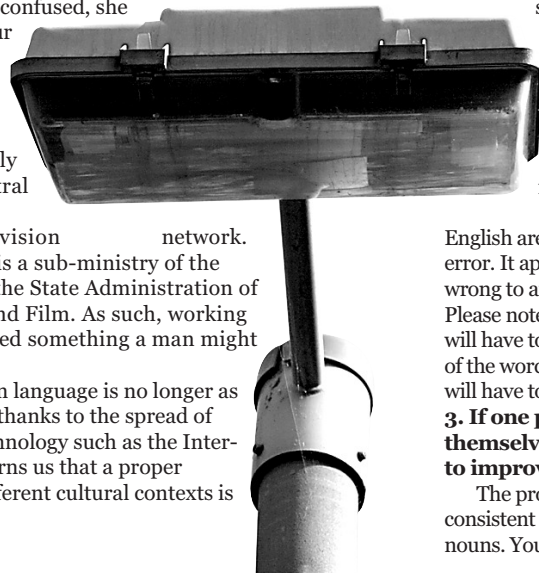
So what happens when you hit the word "CANTION"? On casual observation, it seems like they intended to write "CAN'T I ON," but forgot a few spaces. When the shift key isn't released caps, the eye misses out on those familiar patterns that forgive spelling errors like these, and things get processed left to right, desperately seeking combinations that mean something.

There is a good reason the sign is in all capital letters: it is a warning, and big letters make English speakers feel like they are being yelled at. Unfortunately, it still drops the ball.

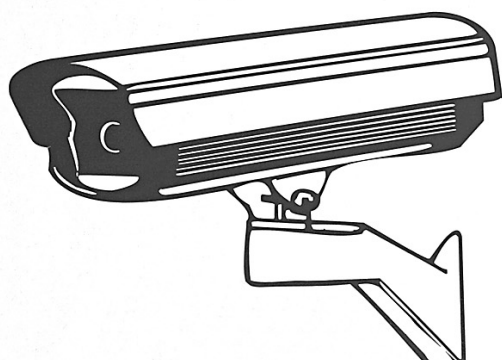
The Chinese, "zhùyì ānquán," is a nice way of saying "Please mind your safety." English signs don't work that way, and the translators did pick up on this. Unfortunately, they combined two separate signs. In English, these signs usually have only one word.

Simply writing "DANGER" would work nicely. "Caution" is a little weaker, and suggests they should just be aware something could happen. You exercise caution when you walk by a big, angry dog. You put yourself in danger when you urinate on an electric fence. Select whichever word is appropriate for the situation.

And please, when typing in capital letters, spell the word correctly. Otherwise, readers like this dumb reporter will see a sign and wonder why "Can't I on danger?" is missing its question mark.



CCTV in operation





SPORTS ARENA



WEEKLY!
"POOL TOURNEY"
TIME: EVERY WEDNESDAY 8 PM



CHAO YANG PARK EAST GUAN HU GARDEN TOWER #1



朝阳公园桥东路北观湖国际大厦写字楼 | 号首层



59283045 / 65381691 / 13901087774

Friday, August 3

Exhibition

**Scent of Summer Flowers
Around – The Water Lily
Group Exhibition**



Where: Creation Art Gallery,
Ritan Dong Lu, Chaoyang
When: Daily 10am-7pm,
until August 12

Admission: Free

Tel: 8561 7570

**Girls Dormitory in
the New City of Bianliang
– Chinese Classical at Play**



Participating artists
include Yang Tao, Yu Hang
and Jiang Chuan.

Where: Amelie Gallery,
505, No 5 Building, China
Central Place, No 89, Jianguo
Lu, Chao Yang

When: Tue-Sun 11am-7pm,
until October 31

Admission: Free

Tel: 6530 7048

Movie

**Goodbye the South, Goodbye
(Nan Guo Zai Jian, Nan Guo)**

Gao, leader of a group of misfits is involved in one get-rich-quick scheme or another. A big fish in a small pond, he is responsible for the welfare of a large extended family, as well as his volatile young friend, Flat Head. Tired of his life, Gao's dream is to buy a restaurant in Shanghai and marry his girlfriend, who is threatening to leave him for a new life in America. He devises a plan to raise the money for the restaurant by trading subsidized pigs to the government for cash. Things seem easy enough, until the temperamental Flat Head upsets the wrong people and sets them on a collision course with the dangerous big league world of power politics and gangland.

Where: Cherry Lane Movies,
inside Kent Center, Anjialou,
Liangmaqiao Lu, Chaoyang

When: 8pm

Admission: 50 yuan

Tel: 139 0113 4745



Saturday, August 4

Exhibition

**Look Back – Ten Years of
Contemporary Oil Painting**



Featured artists include
Wang Qingsong, Hu Xiangdong, Yi Ling, Lin Fei, Zhang Hongbo and Ma Ziheng.

Where: New Millennium
Gallery, 3818 Warehouse, No 2
Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang

When: Daily 10am-7pm,
until August 31

Admission: Free

Tel: 6432 4122

Music

Emil De Waal Live

Emil De Waal is Denmark's top drummer, having performed with and programmed, arranged and lead for anyone who's anyone in his homeland and many artists from all around the world.

Where: 2 Kolegas Bar,
inside the drive-in movie the-

ater park, No 21 Liangmaqiao
Lu, Chaoyang

When: 10pm

Admission: 40 yuan

Tel: 8196 4820

Outdoors

Five Days in Tibet

The majestic, almost lunar, landscapes and the stunning culture make this one of the world's most alluring destinations. The tour covers Lhasa (Potala Palace, Jokhang Monastery and Sera Monastery), Shigatse, Lhoka, Yamdrok Lake and Tsetang (Samye Monastery and Yombulagang Palace).

When: Leave Beijing for

Lhasa by CA4112 at 9:15am,
August 4 and return Beijing by
CA4111 at 21:35pm, August 8.

Cost: 11,500 yuan (Late
booking will probably result in
higher fees. If there are fewer
than ten participants, the trip
might be canceled.)

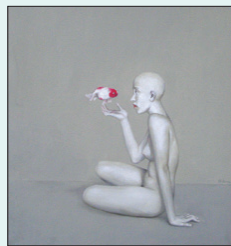
Tel: 6432 9341, 6432 1041
(Chinese Culture Club)



Sunday, August 5

Exhibition

A Light for Tomorrow



An exhibition celebrating
diversity, with works by five
emerging artists: Xue Jiye, Du
Xinjian, Chen Xinmao, Li Xin
and Chen Jiao.

Where: Art Scene Beijing,

No 2 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang

When: Tue-Sun 10am-6pm,
until August 24

Admission: Free

Tel: 6431 6962

**No Border – Zheng
Xuewu's Works 2007**

Where: Red Gate Gallery,
Dongbianmen Watchtower,
Chongwen

When: Daily 10am-5pm,
until August 26

Admission: Free

Tel: 6525 1005

**Wassily Kandinsky's
Oil Paintings**

Where: Melodic Art Gal-
lery, No 14 Jianguomen Wai

Dajie, Chaoyang

When: Daily 10am-4:30pm,
until August 25

Admission: Free

Tel: 6515 8123



**Qin Gallery Contemporary
Oil Painting Exhibition**

The exhibition will feature
more than 30 works by young
Chinese painters such as
Luan Xiaojie. Through a vari-
ety of images and approaches,
the paintings reflect the art-
ists' perceptions of the age
they live in.

Where: Qin Gallery, Enjoy
Paradise, Hua Wei Li 1-1E
(North of Beijing Curio City)
Chaoyang

When: Daily 9:30am-7pm,
until August 31

Admission: Free

Tel: 8779 0461

Stage in September

Music

**Rock'n'roll Banquet
– 2007 Beijing Popular
Music Festival**

Who: The Lord Beats an
Entertainer, Cui Jian,
Suede, Nine Inch Nails
and The Ramones.

Where: Chaoyang Park, No 1
Nongzhan Nan Lu, Chaoyang

When: September 8-9

Admission: 200-380 yuan

Swing and Jazz

Who: Savoy Dance Orchestra
Where: The Star Live, No 79

Heping Xi Jie, Dongcheng

When: 8:30pm,

September 13

Admission: 100-150 yuan

**Opening Concert of the
Tenth Peking Special Works
– International Music
Section: Beethovens' Works**

Who: Lang Lang and
German National Orchestra,
Berlin

Where: Poly Theatre, No 14
Dongzhimen Nan Dajie,
Chaoyang

When: 7:30pm,

September 21

Admission: 180-980 yuan

Dance

**Pina Bausch and
Tanztheater Wuppertal
live in Beijing**

Who: Pina Bausch and Tanz-
theater Wuppertal

Where: Tianqiao Theatre,
No 21 Tianqiao Beiwei Lu,
Chongwen

When: 7:30pm,

September 20-23

Admission: 180-1,280 yuan

Dancing Queen

Who: Spirit of the Dance
Productions (Ireland)

Where: Beijing Exhibition
Theater, No 135 Xizhimen Wai
Street, Xicheng

When: 7:30pm,

September 21-22

Admission: 180-1,000 yuan

**Gala Show by the Russian
Red Army Song and
Dance Ensemble**

Who: The Red Army Song
and Dance Ensemble of Russia

Where: Beijing Exhibition
Theater, No 135 Xizhimen Wai
Street, Xicheng

When: 7:30pm,

September 28-29

Admission: 180-680 yuan

Drama

**Chinese Musical
"Butterflies"**

This is a tragedy similar to
Tragic World. It tells a tale of
life and death tangling up with
the true love between a man
and two women. A flowing and
lively story, graceful and fluent
music, poetic and psychedelic
stage language and a show-stop-
ping climax make this a brand
new twist on the musical genre.
Liang Shanbo and Zhu Yingtai,
a couple from classic legend are
reborn into the story of "becom-
ing a Butterfly." The show tells
a Chinese story using western
forms in both music and dance.

Who: Siqin Gaowa, Shi Ke,
Wang Lihong and Li Wen

Where: Poly Theatre, No 14
Dongzhimen Nan Dajie, Chaoyang

When: 7:30pm,

September 11-20

Admission: 180-1,200 yuan

(By Qiu Jiaoning)